

# Canada Weekly

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## Berger report recommends ten-year delay on gas pipeline

Mr. Justice Thomas R. Berger's report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, tabled in the House of Commons on May 9 recommends that, on environmental grounds, no pipeline should be built across the Northern Yukon.

On the other hand, it is feasible, from an environmental point of view, to build a pipeline along the Mackenzie Valley to transport gas from the Arctic. However, construction of a pipeline along the Mackenzie Valley should be postponed for ten years to allow sufficient time for a just settlement of native claims. The judge indicates that on the basis of the evidence brought before the Inquiry, the alternative overland route to carry Alaskan gas to markets in the United States, along the Alaska Highway crossing the southern Yukon is environmentally preferable to the crossing of the Northern Yukon.

Judge Berger's recommendations do not mean that Canadians "must renounce their northern gas and oil." The report said if the Government of Canada accepted the recommendations contained in the report, Canadians could build "a Mackenzie Valley pipeline at the time of their own choosing, along a route of their own choice."

### Frontier also a homeland

Decisions facing Canadians about the North, said the Judge, "are not...simply about northern pipelines. They are decisions about the protection of the northern environment and the future of the northern peoples.... The North is a region of conflicting goals, preferences and aspirations...(where) the pipeline represents the advance of the industrial system to the Arctic.... The impact of a pipeline will bear especially upon the native people.... The conflict focuses on the pipeline." For some in Northern Canada, the North is a frontier, for others, it is a homeland, Judge Berger said.

### Assumptions

"I have proceeded," stated the judge, "on the assumption that, in due course,



Justice Thomas R. Berger

the industrial system will require the gas and oil of the Western Arctic, and that they will have to be transported along the Mackenzie Valley to markets in the South. I have also proceeded on the assumption that we intend to protect and preserve Canada's northern environment and that, above all else, we intend to honour the legitimate claims and aspirations of the native people. All of these assumptions are embedded in the Federal Government's expressed northern policy for the 1970s."

Two pipeline companies, Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Ltd. and Foothills Pipe Lines Ltd., have proposed pipelines to bring gas from the Arctic along the Mackenzie Valley to consumers in the South. Arctic Gas proposes to bring Alaskan gas from Prudhoe Bay via the Northern Yukon, hook up with gas from the Mackenzie Delta and deliver to markets in Canada and the United States. Foothills proposes to bring Canadian gas south from the Mackenzie Delta.

The mandate of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry was to determine the social, environmental and economic impact of the construction of a gas pipeline and the cumulative impact of an energy corridor from the Arctic, and to recommend the terms and conditions

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that ought to be imposed on any right-of-way if such a pipeline were to be built.

This is Volume I of the report of the Inquiry. Volume II, which is in preparation, will be available this summer. It will contain terms and conditions to be imposed if a pipeline is built.

**Key recommendations**

- Judge Berger said: "I recommend that no pipeline be built and no energy corridor be established across the Northern Yukon along either route." This means that the report rejected both the coastal and interior routes proposed by Arctic Gas to bring gas from Alaska to the United States.

- He said if the pipeline were built along the coastal route and an energy corridor established, "I foresee that, within our lifetime, the Porcupine caribou herd (one of the last great caribou herds in North America), will be reduced to a remnant." "The preservation of the Porcupine caribou herd is incompatible with the building of a gas pipeline and the establishment of an energy corridor through its calving grounds."

- The Arctic Gas pipeline and energy corridor along the interior route in the Northern Yukon "would have a devastating impact on the people of Old Crow," Judge Berger said. "All the people in the village told me they are opposed to the pipeline. They fear it will destroy their village, their way of life, and their land."

- The report recommended that a national wilderness park be established in the Northern Yukon contiguous to Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Range "to protect the wilderness, the caribou, birds and other wildlife." "Oil and gas exploration, pipeline construction and industrial activity must be prohibited within the park and the native people must continue to have the right to hunt, fish and trap."

**Alternative proposal**

Regarding the alternative proposal to carry Alaskan gas along the Alaska Highway route across the southern Yukon, Judge Berger said: "Some of the concerns about wildlife, wilderness, and engineering and construction that led me to reject the corridor across the Northern Yukon do not appear to apply in the case of the Alaska

**Possible Pipeline Routes for Northern Gas**



Highway route. It is a route with an established infrastructure. In my view, the construction of a pipeline along this route would not threaten any substantial populations of any species in the Yukon or in Alaska. But I am in no position to endorse such a route: an assessment of social and economic impact must still be made and native claims have not been settled."

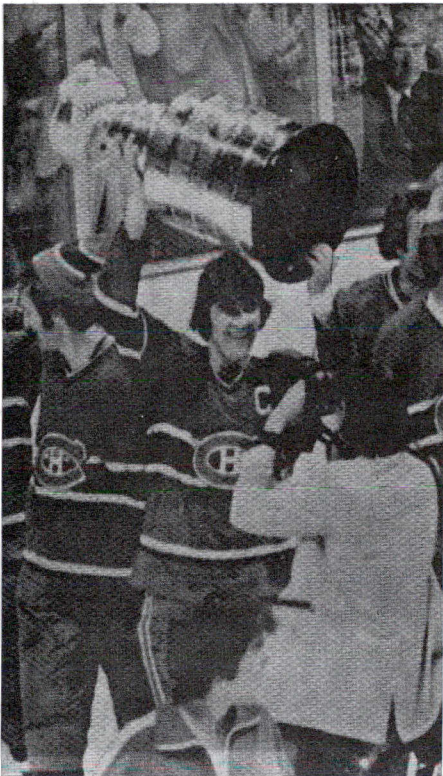
Judge Berger views the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea area as a "major petroleum province in the making" and regards the pipeline as the trigger for expanded oil and gas exploration and development. He rejected the Arctic Gas proposed route across the Mackenzie Delta in order to protect the Delta's unique ecosystem, the birds and the white whales.

- Judge Berger recommended a white whale sanctuary be established in west Mackenzie Bay to protect the calving grounds for the 5,000-strong white whale herd.

- Another key recommendation is that "a period of ten years will be required

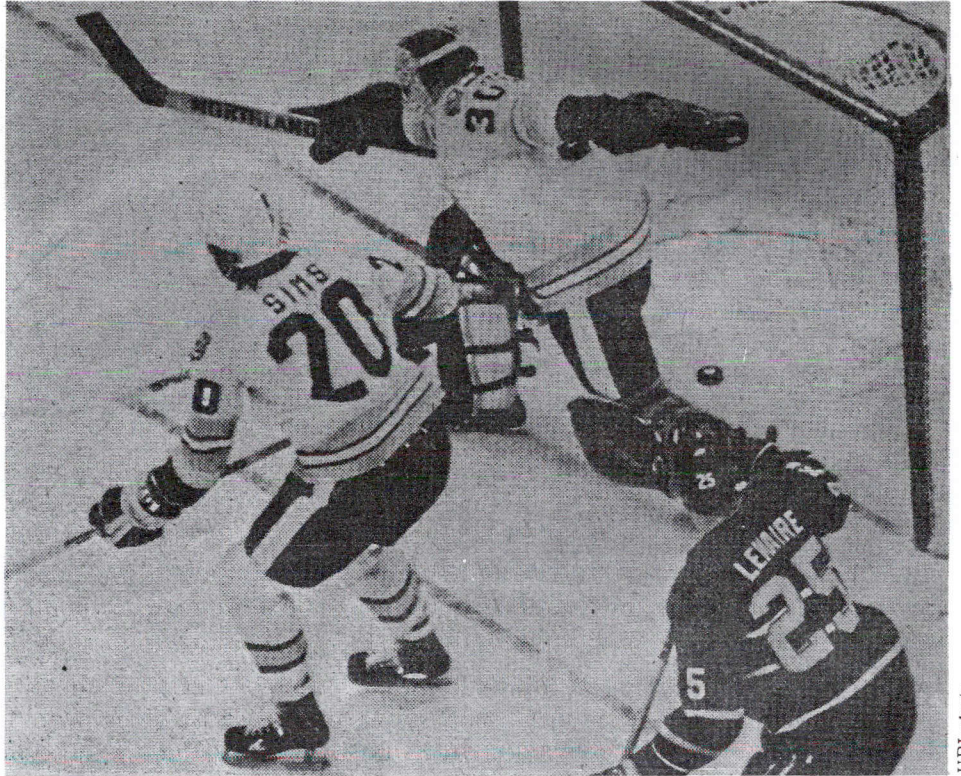
in the Mackenzie Valley and Western Arctic to settle native claims, and to establish the new institutions and new programs that a settlement will entail. No pipeline should be built until these things have been achieved." But solely from an environmental point of view, Judge Berger said, "I have concluded that it is feasible...to build a pipeline and to establish an energy corridor along the Mackenzie Valley, running south from the Mackenzie Delta to the Alberta border."

"The pipeline companies see the pipeline as an unqualified gain to the North" but "it is an illusion to believe that the pipeline will solve the economic problems of the North," the report said. The Arctic Gas project has been described as one of the greatest construction projects, in terms of capital expenditure, ever contemplated by private enterprise. The Arctic Gas pipeline would require 6,000 construction workers north of 60, a huge infrastructure of wharves, warehouses and airstrips, and fleets of



AP photo

Serge Savard, captain of the Montreal Canadiens, raises the Stanley Cup triumphantly after his team's victory over the Boston Bruins in the National Hockey League Stanley Cup final in



UPI photo

Boston, U.S.A., on May 14. The score was 2-1, Jacques Lemaire getting both goals, with the tie-breaker coming at 4:32 of the first overtime period. The Canadiens, last year's champions, who

won the Stanley Cup for the twentieth time, beat the Bruins in four straight games in the best-of-seven series. (Above) Lemaire scores the winning goal past Boston goalie Gerry Cheevers.

**New arrangement with World Bank**

Canada will co-operate in a new arrangement for financing projects of "high-impact" in developing countries, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson announced recently.

Under an agreement, signed at World Bank headquarters in Washington last month, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will provide up to \$35 million for the co-financing of joint projects, in priority areas, in co-operation with the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank.

The money will help pay for development projects planned and administered by IDA in some of the world's poorest regions, and will be in countries and sectors eligible for Canadian assistance and subject to Canadian approval.

Loans made under this special arrangement will be untied and will be at normal IDA terms, which are currently similar to the terms on most CIDA loans (interest-free, ten years'

grace, 50 years' repayment).

This co-financing arrangement, the first such agreement made by the World Bank, is expected to speed the flow of Canadian funds into significant development programs and benefit large numbers of the world's poorest people. While several areas are under consideration, emphasis is on agricultural development and water supplies in Africa and Asia.

**Student Commonwealth Conference**

This year, for the first time, students from all across Canada participated in the Fifth Student Commonwealth Conference in Ottawa, from April 25 to 27. The conference, sponsored by the Ottawa branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), assisted by the Commonwealth Institutions Division of the Department of External Affairs and the Commonwealth High Commissioners resident in Ottawa, was attended by delegates from Victoria, Vancouver,

Winnipeg, Pembroke, Sharbot Lake, Kingston, Montebello, Montreal, Charlottetown and Halifax. They stayed with Commonwealth High Commissioners and members and friends of the RCS, who helped them to understand the point of view of the nations they represented.

F.J. Neal, chairman of the Planning Committee, who opened the Conference, introduced Robin Souchen, student chairman from Sir Wilfrid Laurier High School, Ottawa, and Andrew McAlister of the Department of External Affairs, who acted as secretary-general.

Arnold Smith, Lester B. Pearson Professor of International Affairs at Ottawa's Carleton University and former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, outlined the challenges facing the modern Commonwealth and emphasized the threat posed to world peace and prosperity by racial and economic inequality. He also spoke on debt repayment, youth and employment, and Rhodesia, three items on the conference agenda.

“Trade and Develop”, a game designed to emphasize the close connection between international trade and economic development, took place the following day. Some participants conducted negotiations with the idea of increasing their domestic gross national product, others aimed at trade relations which would be beneficial to all concerned.

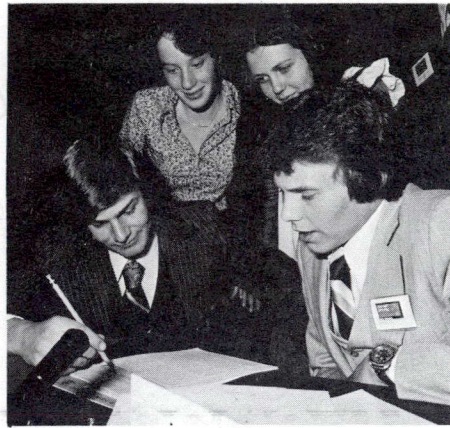
High Commissioner Paulias Matane of Papua New Guinea delivered the theme address, emphasizing the important role of the Commonwealth in the South Pacific, and making particular reference to his own country. He commented on the necessity of maintaining the flow of development assistance and concluded, “There is, and will always be, a role for the Commonwealth in our changing world.” He entertained questions on such diverse topics as nuclear power, multinational corporations, political and economic independence, nation-building, and loan repayment.

#### Heads of government

Ivan Head, special adviser to the Prime Minister for International Relations, who was present for the formal opening of the model heads of government meeting, briefed the delegates on procedures used in Commonwealth conferences.

Heads of government engaged in a lively exchange on the difficult subject of debt repayment. They supported the proposal by the delegate from Cyprus that a Commonwealth review board be created to examine the problem of international indebtedness on an individual-case basis, country-by-country. The board will consist of members from both the lending countries and debtor countries. The secretary-general agreed to recommend that lending countries in the Commonwealth consider a moratorium on debt repayment until the review board could complete its investigation. If the review board proves to be a successful structure, heads of government hoped it could be broadened to embrace the entire membership of the United Nations.

Heads of government agreed to expand the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation with a special emphasis on educational programs and they instructed the secretary-general to commence a program of sending edu-



*Participants in the Fifth Student Commonwealth Conference came from all areas of Canada.*

cational advisers to both developed and developing countries. In order to take regional needs and interests into account, Heads of government instructed the secretary-general to consult closely on a regional basis with member governments.

The Fifth Student Commonwealth Conference was a worthwhile educational experience, said Mr. Neal at the close of proceedings. He expressed gratitude specifically to the Department of External Affairs, the Commonwealth High Commissioners, the various boards of education, the theme speakers and workshop leaders and the participating students.

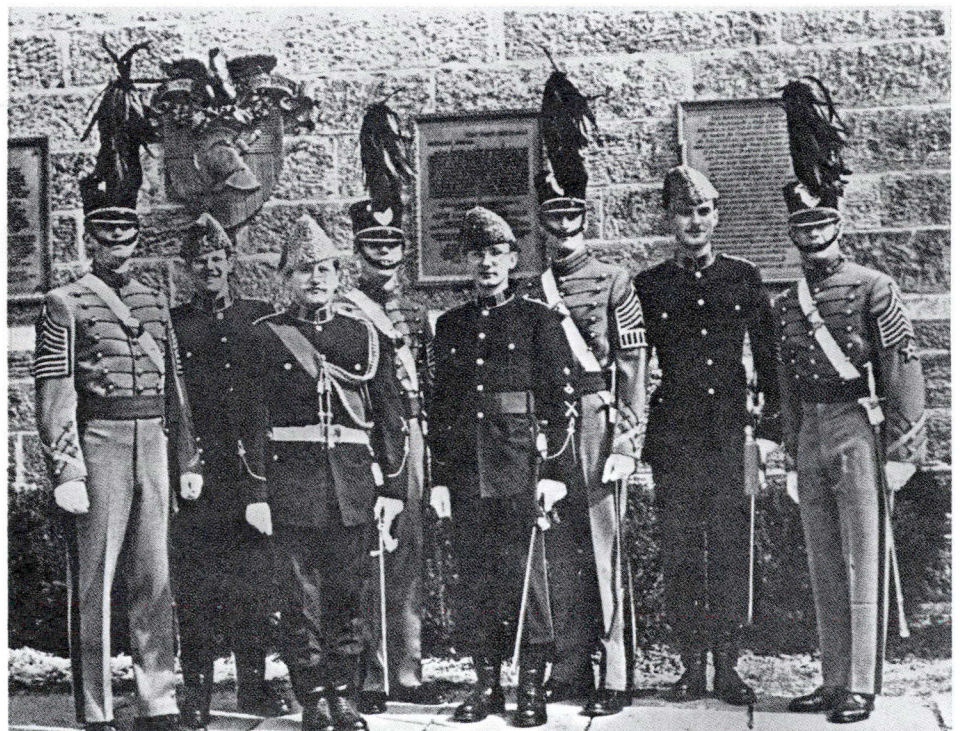
#### West Point weekend

The Royal Military College of Canada's rifle, pistol, and hockey teams and a few hardy spectators travelled down to West Point for a weekend recently to continue the traditional athletic competition between the two military colleges. While the athletic competitions were quite naturally the highlight of the weekend, the West Pointers proved to be excellent hosts and provided a wide variety of entertainment for their guests. Shown below are some of RMC's cadets and their West Point hosts.

RMC failed to impress the West Point athletic teams, bowing to defeat in all three competitions. West Point undoubtedly fielded their best hockey team in years and ran up a score of 11-2.

In pistol, West Point beat RMC by 2787 to 2563. The rifle team shot 1298 to West Point's 1371.

Despite the outcome of the sporting events, the trip to West Point was both instructive and enjoyable. The brief glimpse of a different approach to military college life led RMC cadets to revise their thinking towards RMC, while the sportsmanlike behaviour of the cadets and the excellent hospitality shown by the hosts led to new friendships.



### Canada-Yugoslavia trade agreement

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, announced on May 17 the ratification of a trade agreement between Canada and Yugoslavia.

The agreement, originally signed during a visit to Yugoslavia in 1973 by former Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Alastair Gillespie, provides for the exchange of most-favoured-nation treatment and encourages efforts by business enterprises to promote and develop economic and technical co-operation.

Canada, noted Mr. Jamieson, attached great importance to strengthening and further developing relations with Yugoslavia and trade was a significant element in this process. He said that Canada-Yugoslavia bilateral trade turnover, which amounted to \$35 million in 1976, was considerably lower than potential.

### Chancellor Schmidt to visit

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of the Federal Republic of Germany will be in Canada from July 7 to 12 on an official visit in response to the invitation extended by the Prime Minister during his trip to the Federal Republic of Germany in March 1975.

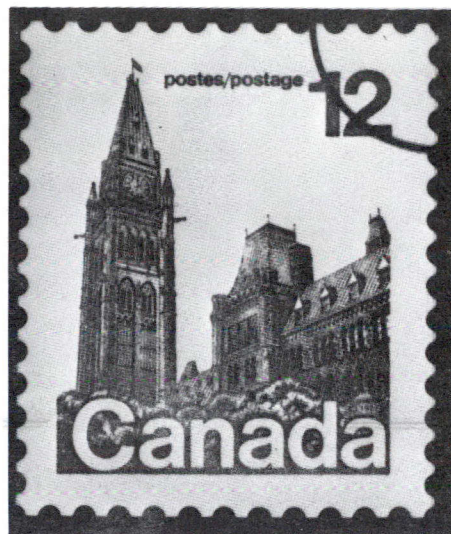
Chancellor and Mrs. Schmidt, who will be in Ottawa on July 11 and 12, will also spend some time in British Columbia and Toronto.

### Parliament Buildings stamp

Canada's Parliament Buildings are depicted on a new 12-cent stamp, issued on May 3.

It was designed by Vancouver photographer Reinhard Derreth and shows an oblique view of the Centre Block and the Peace Tower.

Parliament Buildings, a group of three buildings in Ottawa — the Centre Block, East Block and West Block — were erected in the 1860s on Parliament Hill, a promontory overlooking the Ottawa River. Like the Houses of Parliament in London, they are Gothic in style. The original Centre Block was designed chiefly by Thomas Fuller; the cornerstone was laid September 1,



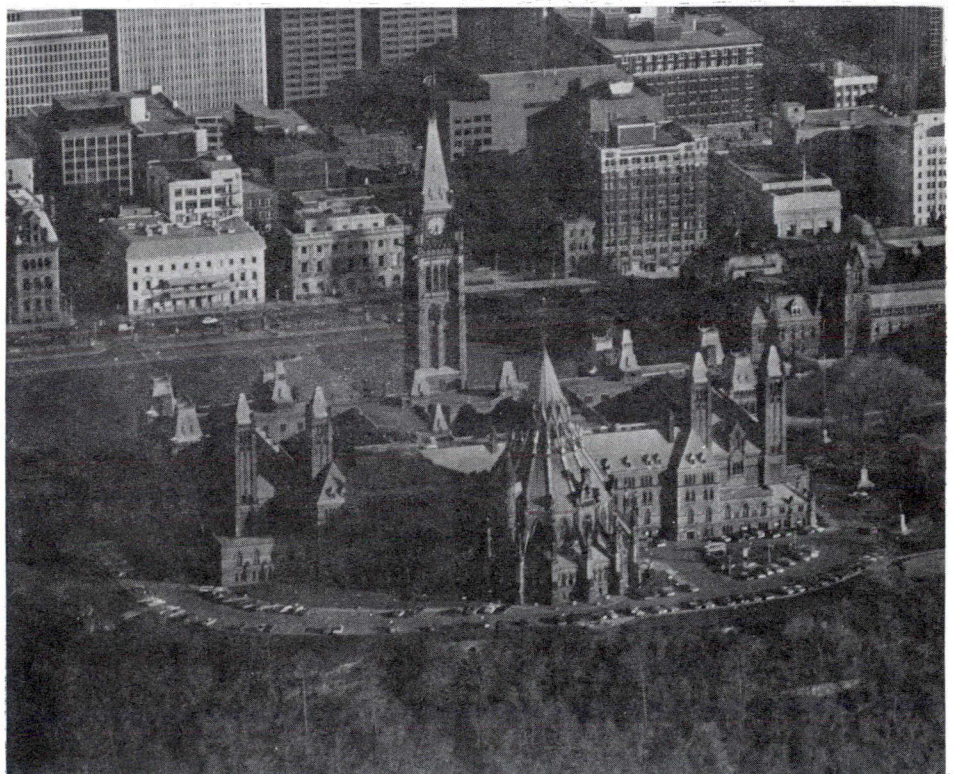
1860, by the Prince of Wales (afterwards Edward VII). Offices in the three buildings were occupied in 1865 and the Parliament of United Canada met there in June 1866. The Library of Parliament, a separate building behind the Centre Block, was completed in 1876.

In 1916, the Centre Block was swept by fire; iron doors in the communicating corridor saved the Library. Rebuilding began immediately, and the main structure was completed in 1920. Designed by John Pearson, the new

Centre Block resembles the old in general outline, but it is a storey higher and is fireproof throughout. Its commanding feature is the Peace Tower, the cornerstone of which was laid by the Prince of Wales (afterwards Edward VIII) in 1919. This tower, about 300 feet in height, contains a Memorial Chamber, with an Altar of Sacrifice, in which are displayed the nation's Books of Remembrance (with the names of 66,651 Canadians who lost their lives on active service in the First World War and 44,895 who died in the Second World War). Above the chamber is a carillon consisting of 53 bells, the largest of which weighs over 11 tons.

The Centre Block contains the Senate Chamber, the House of Commons, various reading rooms and committee rooms and offices for senators and members. There are 490 rooms in all. The original East Block and West Block are still in use, but are now supplemented by many other government office buildings.

The Library of Parliament, damaged by fire in 1952, was extensively rebuilt in fireproof and fire-resistant materials, but the original interior woodwork was carefully preserved. It was reopened in 1956.



Rear view of Canada's Parliament Buildings with the Library in foreground.

# News of the arts

## Play salutes wheat co-ops

A play about the co-operative movement by the wheat farmers of Saskatchewan has been a runaway hit for a theatre company in Saskatoon. *Paper Wheat*, which was written by the actors of the Twenty-Fifth Street House Theatre, is drawn from interviews conducted with over 100 prairie farmers.

The play is a documentary drama about the settling of the West by immigrants from various parts of the world – the hardships they encountered: the weather, the insects and the loneliness, and how they worked together to set up grain co-operatives.

Andy Tahn, director of *Paper Wheat*, describes the play as “personalized Saskatchewan history.” It is full of anecdotes and songs and snippets of conversation about wheat pools and credit unions. The title refers to the futures market which existed before the wheat board became the marketing authority. This practice of buying contracts for the grain before it was harvested would force prices down until farmers were paid rock-bottom prices.

The story of how farmers formed co-operatives as a defence against exploitation is told by six actors playing various roles. In one scene, the struggle is telescoped by a wrestling



Sharon Hughes and Michael Fahey in a scene from *Paper Wheat*, written and

produced by the Twenty-Fifth House Theatre company of Saskatoon.

match between Grain Growers Gertie and Big Business Bertha, who is encouraged by Government Gail, and in another scene by a song-and-dance routine, “The Grain Exchange Rag” (“Let’s all bump the bumpkin”).

Twenty-Fifth Street House Theatre opened *Paper Wheat* in Sinaluta, a small town in rural Saskatchewan in early April. The play then toured Moose Jaw, Regina and Eston, ending

with a two-week run at their home theatre in Saskatoon. Audience reaction has been excellent. In a letter of thanks to the company, one woman reminisced: “I saw and heard my parents and grandparents and relived some of my own experiences...our family came to Canada in 1906...my daughter and I talked for hours after the performance about the heritage which you are keeping alive in this ‘epic’ production.”

## Literary prizes

Winners of the 1976 Governor General’s Literary Awards are (fiction): *Bear* by Marian Engel (McClelland and Stewart) and *Les rescapés* by André Major (Editions Quinze); (poetry): *Top Soil* by Joe Rosenblatt (Press Porcupic) and *Poèmes 1946-1968* by Alphonse Piché (Editions de l’Hexagone); (non-fiction): *The Writing of Canadian History* by Carl Berger (Oxford University Press) and *Le Bas Canada 1791-1840, changements structureaux et crise* by Fernand Ouellet (Editions de l’Université d’Ottawa).

The prizes, \$5,000 each, from the Canada Council, were presented to the authors by Governor-General Jules Léger on May 17.

Prize-winners were chosen by an 18-member selection committee which examined over 400 works written by Canadians in 1976. Mordecai Richler,

novelist, and Jean Basile, editor and critic, co-chaired the committee.

### Bear

Critics have described Marian Engel’s novel *Bear* as “one of the most extraordinary and artistically successful novels ever written in Canada.” *Bear* is a story of a woman who, on an island retreat in northern Ontario, discovers the existence of god-like forces in nature, and emerges from her experience with hitherto unknown self-knowledge and self-possession.

Marian Passmore Engel was born in Toronto and spent her childhood in Port Arthur, Brantford, Galt, Hamilton and Sarnia, Ontario. She studied at McMaster University and McGill, and has taught in Canada, the United States and Cyprus.

Her earlier publications include *No Clouds of Glory (Sarah Bastard’s Notebook)*, 1968; *The Honeyman Festival*,

1970; *Monodromos (One Way Street)*, 1973; *Joanne*, 1975; and *Inside the Easter Egg*, 1975.

### Les rescapés

André Major’s *Les rescapés (The Survivors)* is the third part of a trilogy of “stories about deserters.” It concerns 14 people in a small Quebec village, their struggle against the violent forces of nature which surround them and of their own human nature within. They are deserters, each in his own way, from society, with which they are unable to cope. The first parts of the trilogy are *L’épouvantail (Scarecrow)* (1974) and *L’épidémie (The Epidemic)* (1975).

André Major, born in Montreal in 1942, published his first work, a collection of poems entitled *Le froid se meurt*, in 1961. Since then he has written two other books of poems, several novels and short stories.

### Top Soil

*Top Soil* is a collection by Toronto-born Joe Rosenblatt, of poetry, drawings, stories and songs. The book is made up of three previously published volumes (*Bumblebee Dithyramb*, 1972, *Blind Photographer*, 1973, and *Dream Craters*, 1974) and some previously unpublished material.

Rosenblatt's work is in numerous anthologies, including *The Oxford Book of Canadian Verse* by A.J.M. Smith (1968), *Poets of the Sixties* by Eli Mandel (1973) and *The Penguin Anthology of Canadian Verse* by Ralph Gustafson (1976). He has published four other books of poetry: *Voyage of the Mood* (1962), *L.S.D. Leacock* (1966), *Winter of the Luna Moth* (1968) and *Vampires and Virgins* (1975).

### Poèmes 1946-1968

Alphonse Piché's retrospective collection of poems is a combination of his three previously published collections – *Ballades de la petite extrace* (1946), *Remous* (1947) and *Voie d'eau* (1950) – with poems written after 1950.

Piché, born in 1917 in Chicoutimi, Quebec, has contributed to literary revues and has participated in writers' symposiums. His poems have appeared in many anthologies. He received Quebec's Prix David in 1947 and the literature prize of the Trois-Rivières Saint Jean Baptiste Society in 1956.

### The Writing of Canadian History

Carl Berger's critical analysis of historical thought and literature in English-speaking Canada in the twentieth century examines the work of major historians – such as Underhill, Innis, Lower and Creighton.

Professor Berger, born in The Pas, Manitoba, in 1939, has contributed to many collections of readings in Canadian history, and is himself the editor of four: *Approaches to Canadian History* (1967), *Imperial Relations in the Age of Laurier* (1969), *Conscription, 1917*, (1969) and *Imperialism and Nationalism, 1884-1914; A Conflict in Canadian Thought* (1969). He is the author of *The Sense of Power: Studies in the Ideas of Canadian Imperialism, 1867-1914* (1970).

### Le Bas-Canada 1791-1840

The historical work, *Le Bas Canada 1791-1840: changements structuraux*

*et crise* (Lower Canada 1791-1840: Structural Changes and Crisis) by Professor Fernand Ouellet, analyzes social development in the period resulting from the interaction of economic, demographic, military, religious, ideological and political forces.

The author, born in 1926 in Lac Bouchette, Quebec, has published numerous books and articles since 1950. His best known book is *Histoire économique et sociale du Québec 1760-1850: structures et conjecture* (1966) which won the Grand Prix littéraire of Montreal, the province of Quebec's Concours littéraire and Prix David, and the Tyrell Medal of the Royal Society of Canada.

### Berger report (Continued from P. 2)

aircraft, tractors, earth-movers, trucks and trailers. "The pipeline contractors and unions have made it plain that native northerners are not qualified to hold down skilled positions in pipeline construction." Once the pipeline is built there will be about 250 jobs, mostly of a technical nature, that will require qualified personnel from the South.

The report stated: "The social costs of building a pipeline now will be enormous, and no remedial programs are likely to ameliorate them." The great majority of the 1,000 witnesses that spoke to the Inquiry in the 35 community hearings expressed their fears

of what a pipeline would bring: "an influx of construction workers, more alcoholism, tearing of the social fabric, injury to the land, and the loss of their identity as a people." Judge Berger said, "I am persuaded that these fears are well-founded."

The report recommended that "the native people must be allowed a choice about their own future. If the pipeline is approved before a settlement of claims takes place, the future of the North – and the place of the native people in the North – will, in effect, have been decided for them."

In the epilogue to the report, Judge Berger referred to the statements made at the Inquiry by native people who said they would be prepared to give up their lives to stop the pipeline if it were to proceed before there had been a settlement of native claims. He said: "I have given the most anxious consideration to whether or not I should make any reference in this report" to the statements made at the Inquiry about possible "violent reaction to the pipeline if it were built without a just settlement of native claims. I have concluded that they cannot be ignored. No one who heard them could doubt that they were said in earnest. I do not want anyone to think I am predicting an insurrection. But I am saying there is the real possibility of civil disobedience and civil disorder that – if they did occur – might well render orderly political evolution of the North impossible."



*The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry hearings began on March 3, 1975 and ended on November 19, 1976. Judge Berger travelled 17,000 miles in the North to 35 communities, where four*

*races live – Dene, Métis, Inuit and White, and heard the views of more than a thousand northerners on the pipeline proposal. (Above) the judge listens to evidence at Inuvik, N.W.T.*

## News briefs

■ The Prime Minister arrived home on May 14 after a nine-day trip to Iceland, Britain and France. In London at the economic summit conference, Mr. Trudeau agreed, with the leaders of six other industrial nations, to begin a two-month study aimed at finding out whether nuclear energy resources can be expanded without risking an increase in the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Summit leaders also approved the idea of a new international monetary fund to provide money for countries needing help to overcome deficits in their balance of payments. At the two-day North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting also in London, Mr. Trudeau said it was important that the citizens of NATO's 15 member countries — especially the young — were convinced of the importance of NATO if it were to retain its strength. He reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the alliance, noting Canada's major review of defence policy in 1969. Canada is spending \$1 billion to buy long-range patrol planes, not just for Canadian territory but also for allied defence in the Atlantic. In Paris, where he met with President Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Raymond Barre, Mr. Trudeau discussed Canada/France relations, Canada's participation in the European Common Market, economic matters and the possibilities of French investment in Canada.

■ Gasoline and home-heating oil prices will probably rise more than three cents a gallon every six months for the next two years, said Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie on May 11. Despite strong opposition from Ontario, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia, the other seven provinces have agreed to raise domestic crude oil prices to \$2 a barrel this year.

■ Wage and price controls will remain in effect until October 14, exactly two years from the date they were imposed, unless business and labour agree on voluntary restraints, Finance Minister Donald Macdonald says.

■ The consumer price index rose at an accelerated 12 percent annual rate during the first three months of 1977, but economists generally expect a slowdown in inflation for the rest of the year. The faster first quarter inflation rate, which was almost double the 6.8 percent annual rate recorded in the fourth quarter of 1976, was mainly the result of rising coffee, tea, fruit, vegetable and petroleum prices. But government economists continue to be optimistic that the rate of consumer price increase for 1977 as a whole will moderate from the 7.5 percent gain in 1976.

■ Canada's gross national product in current dollar terms reached a level of \$184.5 billion last year, up 14.5 per cent from that of 1975. In terms of real growth (discounting price increases), real GNP in 1976 was 4.6 percent higher than it was in the previous year. It is estimated that GNP will reach \$209 billion this year, an increase of 11.5 per cent. Some 4 per cent is expected to be real growth, and 7.5 per cent accounted for by higher prices.

■ Average family incomes adjusted to remove the effects of inflation rose by about 180 per cent between 1951 and 1975, says R.A. Wallace, assistant chief statistician responsible for census and household surveys at Statistics Canada. The average rose from \$7,400 in 1951 to \$9,300 in 1961 and to \$13,573 in 1975 and, if growth continues at a steady pace, it should be over \$20,000 in 1975 dollars by 1981.

■ Labour productivity in Canada rose 5.1 per cent last year, its biggest annual gain since 1973.

■ Artificial asbestos ashes used with decorative fireplace sets will be banned within the next few months, a Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department official said recently. Some new proposals under the Hazardous Products Act would ban the sale of any product containing loose asbestos. Intake of asbestos fibres into lungs has been associated with lung cancer.

■ Manitoba Finance Minister Saul Miller said last month that the province had sold a public issue amounting to 80 million Swiss Francs — about

\$33 million in Canadian funds — in Zurich at the "particularly good" interest rate of 5½ per cent. He said the issue, dated May 12, 1977, was for a full 15-year period, "which makes the interest rate even more satisfactory." These 15-year bonds are callable at the option of the province after five years at declining premiums.

■ The Canada Environmental Protection Service has undertaken a five-year \$7 million technology program to develop oil spill countermeasures for Arctic waters, Fisheries and Environment Minister Roméo LeBlanc announced recently.

■ Fifteen Canadian universities have been given \$375,000 in northern science training grants by the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The northern science training grants program, which began in 1962, encourages the training of northern scientists. More than \$3 million has been given to universities since the program began.

■ All assets acquired during marriage would be considered the joint property of both spouses in the event of marriage breakdown, under terms of the proposed Marital Property Act introduced into the Manitoba Legislature by Attorney General Howard Pawley. Mr. Pawley said family assets, such as the marital home, furniture, the family car and all other non-commercial assets, would be considered the joint property of both spouses immediately upon acquisition. Commercial assets, on the other hand — such as businesses and investments — would not be accounted or "equalized" until there was a separation, divorce or a court determined that one spouse was dissipating these commercial assets. The purpose of this provision, he said, was to prevent an encroachment on the normal business dealings of either spouse.

■ The tourism departments of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are participating with seven major petroleum companies and their dealers in a pilot program to promote clean and well stocked washrooms on highways throughout Atlantic Canada. To date, 202 service station dealers, who have applied for participation in the "we care" program agree with provincial tourism departments that service station facilities will be kept clean, sanitary and functional at all times.

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