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NATIONAL DESIGN COUNCIL MEETS

The following remarks by Mr. George Hees, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to members of the National Design Council, opened the initial meeting of the Council in Ottawa on October 5, 1961:

"Mrs. Burrows and gentlemen, I am delighted to see you here. You are faced with a lengthy agenda for this first meeting of the Council and I do not mean to detain you. But, I should like to welcome you most warmly and to thank you on behalf of the Government and on my own account, for accepting the obligations of membership in the National Design Council. I know that you do so at no small sacrifice of time that would otherwise be devoted to your business and professional affairs.

"For some of you this may be the first occasion on which you have been directly involved as members of an official advisory body. The matters to which you will be giving attention are of the greatest importance for the future of industry in this country. As you are aware, I have often spoken to Canadian manufacturers about design and how this can help them compete in markets abroad, as well as in the domestic market.

"I regard design as being of equal importance with quality, servicing and competitive prices. It is one of the most effective means of upgrading the value of the products of Canada's economy. Through the skilled application of engineering and design knowledge, pieces of metal and wood, for example, can become a valuable piece of electronic equipment. There is little doubt that design is one of the skills

which can make a substantial contribution in further advancing our progress into the ranks of the advanced industrialized nations.

"If Canadian industry fails in any of the important aspects of production and distribution, it greatly lessens the prospect of holding our own with industry in other countries. Your collective experience and your wise counsel will be of the greatest assistance to the many interests throughout the country concerned with making and marketing goods.

NEED FOR NATIVE INSPIRATION

"We must stop merely imitating successful foreign designs. The evidence of our dependence on the work of others in this field is all around us. You will have seen, as I have, Canadian products described as being 'Danish Inspired', or 'Scandinavian Style'. I do not wish to depreciate the splendid models that these and other industrial countries offer, but our designers, if given the opportunity, are surely capable of equally bold and imaginative and practical forms.

"Contemporary styles developed elsewhere are bound to have an influence on Canadian design. I am convinced, however, as I have said publicly many times, that we have the talent for originality, and the enterprise as well, to meet any competition on this ground.

"Many outstandingly-fine Canadian products prove that we have design skill in this country. It is our task and yours to persuade the business community to give more scope to designers so that

distinctively Canadian forms and styles may be brought into all markets.

"If I seem to place emphasis on form and appearance, let me assure you I appreciate that design should begin at the initial stage of product development. Isn't one of the main problems to ensure that competent designers are made full partners in the entire product plan? It's not good enough to call in the designer at the end to deal with shape, finish and decoration.

DESIGN AS CAPITAL INVESTMENT

"I've been told that manufacturers sometimes shy away from design, because they are concerned that this will add substantially to the cost of production and put them in an unfavourable price position. Unquestionably, design costs money, but it is just as essential a capital investment as the money that goes into plant, equipment and skilled personnel. But design need not raise costs appreciably. Design which fails to take account of the possibilities and limitations of the material and the availability of machines and tools is surely not good design or, at least, not realistic design.

"I see product development as a team effort with all the elements of production and marketing taken into account, as well as the costs that will be incurred all along the line. This calls for a forward-looking attitude. In manufacturing, as in so many fields, one always has a greater feeling of security with old and tried methods. But without flexibility and a certain risk, without at least some disposition for adventure, nothing original and commanding will emerge.

"I am confident that, with your help, my Department will be able to give practical and realistic aid to Canadian industry. The benefits from improved design will extend to everyone in the country. The public will derive no less satisfaction than the industrial interest from a wider choice of goods superior in performance and pleasing to live with. We must keep superior design before the public, see that the designer plays a bigger part and help him to improve his qualifications and his technique. The matter is urgent. The world is growing increasingly more competitive. If we in Canada are hesitant, we shall let market opportunities both at home and abroad go by default -- without even putting up a fight -- to the products of other countries where more importance is given to function of design.

"Because the matter is urgent, I will not intrude further on your time, but wish you well in your deliberations which, I assure you, I will follow with the greatest of interest".

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index remained unchanged at 129.1 between the beginning of August and the beginning of September 1961. All components except food were higher, largely as a result of the introduction of a 3.0 per cent sales tax in Ontario. However, these increases were offset by a substantial decline in the food component due to seasonally lower prices for most fresh fruits and vegetables.

The food index decreased 1.7 per cent to 123.2 from 125.3, as prices sharply lower were reported for apples, peaches, grapes, potatoes, tomatoes, celery and carrots. Lower prices also occurred for canned and frozen vegetables, canned fruits, chicken, turkey, lamb and veal. Beef and pork prices were generally higher, and price increases were also recorded for eggs, citrus fruits, coffee, tea and flour.

The housing component rose 0.5 per cent to 133.5 from 132.9, as the shelter index rose a fractional 0.1 per cent and the household-operation index increased 0.8 per cent. In shelter, the rent index was unchanged, while the home-ownership index edged up 0.1 per cent. The increase in the household-operation index reflected both the effect of the sales tax and price increases for coal and some items of furniture, floor coverings, textiles and utensils and equipment.

The clothing index increased 0.9 per cent to 113.1 from 112.1. Most of this movement was due to the effect of the sales tax which offset sale prices for men's clothing. Price increases occurred for laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repairs.

The transportation index rose 0.7 per cent to 140.0 from 139.0. In automobile operation, higher prices were reported for repairs and servicing and some price increases were in evidence on year-end 1961 passenger cars. Prices for automobile tires were lower. The local-transportation index increased as a result of higher bus fares in two Ontario cities.

The component for health and personal care increased 0.3 per cent to 155.0 from 154.6, the recreation and reading index 0.9 per cent to 146.7 from 145.4, and the tobacco and alcohol index 1.0 per cent to 117.3 from 116.1. The increases in all three indexes resulted from the direct impact of the Ontario sales tax on items included in the groups.

EXPORTERS OFFER LONG-TERM CREDIT

Canadian exporters can now compete equally with foreign suppliers from any country when it comes to giving their customers abroad extended credit terms, according to a folder on *Government Export Financing* published recently by the Export Credits Insurance Corporation.

The Corporation is the Federal Government's financing agency for export credit transactions, operating under Section 21A of the Export Credits Insurance Act. Through its special Export Finance Division, the Corporation deals directly with the Canadian exporter. It is the exporter himself who develops the foreign business and negotiates the financing arrangements with the Corporation. Payments for the equipment are made direct by the Corporation to the exporter, just as if the foreign buyer had made a cash purchase.

Government financing is reserved for export sales of capital goods requiring credit terms of longer than five years. The period involved can be as long as 15 years or more, if this is necessary to enable the Canadian exporter to compete successfully for foreign business. Such long-term financing for exports is not available from the banks or other commercial sources.

The new folder outlines the type of transactions financed, the terms of credit, financing costs, how to negotiate transactions, eligibility for financing, and how to apply.

NEW FRONTIER; CANADIAN STYLE

Plans for the development of a programme to send young Canadian graduates to serve in Asia and Africa in junior positions in countries that request such personnel were announced in Ottawa recently by Mr. Lewis Perinbam, Acting Executive Secretary of the Canadian University Service Overseas. The CUSO is a new agency, which came into existence on June 6, 1961, under the auspices of the Canadian universities and a number of national organizations. Its honorary officers are Dr. C.T. Bissell, President of the University of Toronto, and the Very Reverend Father G.H. Levesque, o.p., Vice-Chairman of the Canada Council; the Chairman of the Executive Committee is the Right Reverend H.J. Somers, President, St. Francis Xavier University.

At the request of the new organization, the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO has agreed to act as its executive agency and to make available the services of the Commission's Associate Secretary, Mr. Lewis Perinbam, as Acting Executive Secretary of the CUSO until permanent arrangements are made for its administration. Financial support for the CUSO is assured in part from the Canadian universities and from its member organizations. Additional funds for its operation and programme will be sought from business and industry, foundations, governments, private donors and other sources.

PROPER ALTITUDES ESSENTIAL

Mr. Lewis Perinbam, Acting Executive Secretary of the CUSO, has just returned from an extensive tour of Southeast Asian countries, in the course of which he visited Pakistan, India, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia, Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo. He reported that in most of these countries there is a great eagerness to receive Canadian graduates, provided that they possess good qualifications, experience, and a willingness to work as equal with local people. Asian countries do not wish charity, patronage or pity, nor do they wish Canadians to think they are coming "to civilize" them. Many Asian countries feel that the Western image of Asia is based largely on the last 400 years of colonialism, about which most Asians are sensitive, and ignores the previous 4000 years of Asia's historic and creative past, about which they are proud. However, these countries would gladly welcome the partnership of young

WHEAT FOR BURMA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, announced recently that agreement had been reached to provide \$350,000-worth of Canadian wheat to Burma under Canada's Colombo Plan Programme for 1961-62. The Government of Burma has agreed to set aside counterpart funds in local currency equivalent to the value of this grant. These counterpart funds will be used for economic development projects in Burma to be agreed on with the Government of Canada. This grant of wheat raises to \$1,600,000 the amount of wheat which Canada has made available to Burma under the Colombo Plan.

Canadians who are willing to work with them in a spirit of humility, goodwill and mutual respect, and who have the capacity to learn about the country to which they are assigned.

Opportunities exist in most of the countries that Mr. Perinbam visited for teachers, engineers and doctors. Graduates with qualifications in these fields are in great demand; in Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo, there is a desperate scarcity of secondary and primary school teachers and, as a result, college graduates with or without teaching qualifications will be accepted for service; in Indonesia junior engineers are in great demand and 25 to 50 can be placed in interesting but demanding positions; in Pakistan, graduates in a variety of fields including social work will be required; in India, there will be opportunities for graduates to teach various subjects, including English, in government institutes and polytechnics; in Malaya and Singapore, doctors are in great demand; and in Cambodia there is a need for graduates speaking English and French to assist in adult education and community development programmes.

CUSO PROGRAMME

The CUSO plans to try to place 100 Canadian graduates overseas during the next year. Funds required for transportation costs and living allowances at local scales will be raised in Canada. The CUSO also hopes that some government support may be forthcoming for its programme, as most of its personnel will be requested by overseas governments, notably those with whom Canada is associated in the Commonwealth and the Colombo Plan. Full support for this programme is assured from the Canadian universities and national university organizations, including the National Federation of Canadian University Students and the World University Service of Canada.

Mr. Perinbam said that Canadians could do much to help the peoples of Asia and Africa in their struggle for a more just and equitable society. At the same time, young Canadians serving overseas could be able to add "a new dimension" to their education, to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the world in which they lived, and to bring credit to Canada.

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BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER INSTALLED

The newly-appointed High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, Viscount Amory, made his first call on Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker on October 5. The High Commissioner was introduced by the Canadian Chief of Protocol, Mr. Henry F. Davis.

Born Derick Heathcoat Amory, he was educated at Eton, Christ Church and Oxford. Mr. Amory was a member of Parliament from 1945-1960. During this period, he served in various capacities including those of Minister of Pensions, Minister of State at the Board of Trade, and Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. Latterly he was Chancellor of the Exchequer and on relinquishing that office was elevated to the peerage.

SECOND QUARTER ACCOUNTS

The upward trend in production of goods and services was resumed in the second quarter of 1961, following the slackening in the pace of economic activity which occurred in the first quarter. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the gross national product rose to \$36,280 million, or close to 2 per cent over the level of the preceding quarter; however, the advance was magnified by changes on interest and dividend account with non-residents. The production gain was supported by increases in most major demand categories, with the exception of business outlays for new plant and equipment, and expenditures for new housing, which declined. In spite of the weakness in these categories of fixed investment, total final purchases rose by about \$0.3 billion during the quarter, and the effect of this recovery on total production was further augmented by a decline in the supply of imported goods and services. A substantial gain in consumer expenditures, rising outlays by the government sector, and a small increase in exports of goods and services, were the major factors accounting for the increased level of final expenditures. Business inventories were also built up during the quarter, but to a very limited extent.

The direction of movement of the major income aggregates in the second quarter was generally upwards. A sharp rise of 13 per cent in corporation profits (before taxes and dividends paid abroad), reflecting increases on a broad front, and a 1.5 per cent increase in labour income, were the major contributing factors behind the 3 per cent increase in national income. Total personal income advanced by close to 1 per cent, but due to a sharp rise in personal direct tax collections, personal disposable income showed only a fractional increase. With consumer spending higher and personal disposable income little changed, personal saving in the quarter fell.

GRANTS TO PUBLICATIONS

Grants to two Toronto publishing houses were among the awards announced on October 5 by the Canada Council. The University of Toronto Press will receive \$6,000 to help it meet editorial costs of *The Canadian Annual Review* during the next year. It will also receive a grant of \$750 to assist with the publication of a book of poems by D.G. Jones entitled *The Sun is Axeman*. The Macmillan Company of Canada will receive an equal amount for the translation into English of the novel, *Le Libraire*, by Gérard Bessette.

The grants for publication and translation are part of a programme established by the Council in 1959 to encourage Canadian writing. Grants are awarded to publishers to make publication possible or to permit a reduction in the retail price of a book. Manuscripts in English are accepted from publishers only and awards are made on the recommendation of an independent jury. Books of poetry, essays, or criticism, and collections of short stories and plays are eligible for assistance. (Similar grants are made

for French manuscripts received from *L'association des éditeurs canadiens*). Grants are also awarded to assist with the translation into either language of outstanding works in these categories. Such awards are made only when the publication is the second language is assured and when the standard of translation is satisfactory.

DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS ABROAD

Another way in which the Council seeks to encourage Canadian writing is through the purchase of books in quantity for distribution abroad. This year more than 10,000 copies of Canadian works were purchased by the Council and distributed to Canadian missions abroad by the Department of External Affairs.

Grants totalling \$3,100 were also announced for the following Montreal publishers: Les Editions de l'Hexagone for *Blessure au flanc du ciel* by Alan Horic and *La cellule enneigée* by Andrée Chaurette; Le cercle du Livre de France for a collection of three works by Paul Toupin including *Chacun son amour*, *Le Mensonge* and *Souvenirs pour demain*; Les Ecrits du Canada Français for *Constantes* by Jean Le Moyne and L'Institute Littéraire du Québec for *Laure Clouet* by Adrienne Choquette.

Other grants to publishers and periodicals announced include \$2,400 to the Canadian Association of Geographers for publication of *The Canadian Geographer* and \$2,000 to the bilingual periodical *Culture*.

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS, AUGUST

Although there were more work stoppages in Canada in August than in July, there were fewer workers involved and a marked drop in the number of man-days lost, according to a preliminary summary of strikes and lockouts released by Mr. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour.

During August there were 47 work stoppages involving 8,067 workers and a total duration of 64,570 man-days. In July there were 41 work stoppages, involving 8,826 workers and a total duration of 94,560 man-days.

Forty-three of the August work stoppages were in industries under provincial jurisdiction. Of these, 14 were in Ontario, 14 in Quebec, seven in British Columbia, four in Saskatchewan, two in Alberta, one in Nova Scotia and one in Newfoundland. Four work stoppages were in industries under federal jurisdiction.

Sixteen of the August work stoppages involved 100 or more workers. Of these, 12 were terminated by the end of the month.

Four stoppages alone accounted for almost 58 per cent of the month's estimated time loss. These were among hotel employees and longshoremen in Toronto, transit employees in Calgary, and plywood-mill workers in Gatineau, Quebec.

A breakdown by industry of the month's stoppages shows 15 in manufacturing, 12 in construction, nine in trade, eight in transportation storage and communication, two in the service industries, and one in logging.

Based on the number of non-agricultural wage and salary workers in Canada, the number of man-days lost in August represented 0.06 per cent of the estimated working time. In July the percentage was 0.09. The corresponding figure for August 1960 was 0.11 per cent.

CANADA JOINS ECLA

Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced on October 6 that Canada had become a member of the United Nations regional Economic Commission for Latin America. The Canadian Government's intention to seek membership was announced in the House of Commons on September 11. The recent announcement marked the completion of the necessary arrangements with the United Nations Secretariat in New York and the Commission in Santiago, Chile.

Essentially, ECLA is a centre of economic studies for Latin America. It forms part of the system of regional economic commissions established by the United Nations and was created on February 25, 1948, with the purpose of providing advice and a forum for discussions on raising the level of economic activity in the Latin American area, on strengthening economic relations between countries of the region and other countries of the world, and on technical assistance programmes in that region. The Commission does not itself provide capital or technical aid directly.

Membership in the Commission is open to countries in North and South America. In addition, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands are members of the Commission, and The West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras have associate member status.

NEW PACKAGING OF POSTAGE STAMPS

The sale of postage stamps packaged in transparent sealed envelopes is now under way in post offices across Canada, it was revealed in an announcement made on October 12 by the Postmaster General, William Hamilton, who pointed out that these packages are another original innovation by the Canadian Post Office Department, as no other postal administration has ever offered a similar item for sale.

The attractive clear-plastic packages contain blocks of 20 five-cent stamps or 50 two-cent stamps and sell for the regular price of \$1.00. They are designed to provide patrons with a more convenient method of purchasing postage stamps in quantities to carry in one's pocket or purse. The packages protect the stamps against dirt, moisture and heat. In addition, the packaged stamps provide maximum sanitary protection from printing to point of sale at the postal wicket.

POPULARITY EXPECTED

It is expected that the packages will prove to be very popular with postal patrons, since they will reduce the number of calls that are normally made at

post-office wickets. The packages will also be more convenient to the patron, as they can be kept easily and safely in pocket or purse after opening and, in this way, the stamps are fully protected.

Mr. Hamilton said the idea for the plastic packs had originally started with the sale of special \$1.00-envelopes of stamps during the 1958 Christmas season. This procedure had been followed since then and had proved to be very popular with patrons. The Post Office hopes that patrons will take advantage of the new packaging not only at Christmas-time but throughout the year.

The Postmaster General said that the introduction of packaged stamps for year-round sale represented another step in the Post Office Department's campaign to offer better, more efficient service to the public.

The new packages do not replace the 25-cent booklets of stamps, which are still available at post offices and in postage stamp dispensers.

CHEMICALS IMPORT BOOKLET

A detailed, 56-page study of Canadian imports of chemicals and allied products that may reveal manufacturing opportunities for Canadian firms has been published by the Department of Trade and Commerce. The booklet *Spotlight On Chemicals* was prepared by the Department's Industrial Development Branch in response to numerous requests for more detailed information on chemical imports, in particular those items classified "n.o.p." (not otherwise provided for) in present statistics.

The booklet will enable interested firms to determine what demand there is in Canada for a particular chemical, and whether imports have reached sufficient proportions to warrant manufacturing that product in this country.

The study is presented in three parts. The first lists imports of chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals for medicinal uses and nutritional products. Imports of industrial chemicals are listed in the second section. The third section enumerates imports of other chemicals and allied products. The products grouped in the n.o.p. classifications in the *Trade of Canada-Imports* are listed individually.

The study covers all chemical import shipments valued at \$300 or more during a six-month period. Total chemical imports under the classes analysed amounted to \$65,531,800 during the period, with industrial chemicals accounting for \$40,905,182.

SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS

Cash income from the sale of farm products in the first six months of 1961 is estimated at a record \$1,329.4 million, about 4 per cent above the estimate of \$1,276.1 million in the first half of 1960, and nearly 1 per cent above the previous all-time high of \$1,318.6 million established in 1959. These estimates include Canadian Wheat Board participation payments, net advances on farm-stored grain in Western Canada and deficiency payments made under the provisions of the Agricultural Stabilization Act.

(Over)

For the most part, the increase in farm cash income between 1960 and 1961 was attributable to increased returns from the sale of wheat, flaxseed, tobacco, hogs and poultry products. Lesser amounts were also contributed by oats, barley and dairy products. Offsetting these gains, to some extent, were smaller returns from marketings of potatoes and cattle, reduced Canadian Wheat Board participation payments and substantially larger repayments of cash advances on farm-stored grains in Western Canada.

In addition to income from the sale of farm products, farmers in Western Canada received supplementary payments totalling \$7.6 million during the first six months of 1961 as against \$29.6 million in the corresponding period a year earlier. Payments for the current year were made up almost entirely of payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act whereas, in 1960, they included \$17 million worth of PFAA payments and \$12 million paid out in connection with the Federal-Provincial Emergency Unthreshed Grain Assistance Act.

When combined, the cash income from the sale of farm products and supplementary payments amounted to \$1,337.0 million for the first half of 1961. This was above the estimate of \$1,305.7 million realized in 1960, but slightly below the figure of \$1,339.5 million for the January-June period of 1959.

All provinces, except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, shared varying amounts of the increase of farm cash income. In the case of the two Maritime Provinces, a substantial reduction in income from the sale of potatoes was almost entirely responsible for the decline in total income of about 25 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively. The gains recorded for the remaining provinces ranged from less than 1 per cent for Alberta to over 9 per cent for Saskatchewan.

Cash income for the half-year period was as follows by provinces (thousands): Prince Edward Island, \$12,254 (\$16,489 in 1960); Nova Scotia, \$20,511 (\$18,924); New Brunswick, \$20,015 (\$23,891); Quebec, \$202,205 (\$187,708); Ontario \$436,581 (\$419,284); Manitoba, \$100,724 (\$97,371); Saskatchewan, \$264,425 (\$242,059); Alberta \$220,855 (\$220,172); and British Columbia, \$51,797 (\$50,185).

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Canada's total exports in July were valued at \$529,700,000, an increase of 13.9 per cent from last year's corresponding total of \$465 million, according to preliminary Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures. With a decrease of 2.5 per cent in the first quarter and an increase of 8.3 per cent in the second quarter, value of exports in the January-July period rose 4.4 per cent to \$3,202,400,000 from \$3,067,200,000 in the like 1960 span. Imports, released on September 21, were valued at \$465,800,000 in the month versus \$423,800,000 and at \$3,240,300,000 in the seven months versus \$3,229,400,000. Part of the increased values in July over a year ago both in exports and imports reflects changes in the foreign exchange value of the Canadian dollar.

The resulting export balance in July was \$63,900,000, up sharply from last year's corresponding export balance of \$41,200,000. There were also export balances in January, April and June which reduced the January-July import balance to \$37,900,000 from \$162,600,000 in the same 1960 period.

U.S. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Exports to the United States in July climbed 15.4 per cent to \$287,600,000 from \$249,300,000 a year earlier. Increases in April and June were more than offset by decreases in the remaining months of the year, and value of exports in the January-July period fell 3.4 per cent to \$1,722,800,000 from \$1,783,400,000. Imports rose 9.8 per cent in the month to \$312,200,000 from \$284,300,000, but declined 1.0 per cent in the cumulative period to \$2,200,900,000 from \$2,222,300,000. The usual import balance with this country was down in July to \$24,600,000 from \$35 million but was up in the January-July period to \$478,100,000 from \$438,900,000.

U.K. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Shipments to the United Kingdom declined 11.6 per cent in July to \$78,600,000 from \$88,900,000 a year earlier, and 3.0 per cent in the January-July period to \$509,400,000 from \$525,200,000. Purchases from the United Kingdom advanced 20.0 per cent in the month to \$51,500,000 from \$42,900,000 and 3.2 per cent in the seven months to \$364,700,000 from \$353,400,000. The export balance was smaller in July, compared to a year earlier at \$27,100,000 versus \$46 million and also lower in the January-July period at \$144,700,000 versus \$171,800,000. July exports to the rest of the Commonwealth were down slightly to \$28 million from \$28,200,000 a year earlier, while January-July exports were up 2.0 per cent to \$186,900,000 from \$183,300,000. Value of the month's imports was up 3.2 per cent to \$22,900,000 from \$22,200,000, and the seven-month value was up 2.2 per cent to \$151,100,000 from \$147,900,000. The export balance was little changed in July at \$5,100,000 against \$6 million a year earlier, and in the January-July period at \$35,800,000 against \$35,400,000.

PRODUCTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Production of passenger cars and commercial vehicles in September totalled 21,258 units, an advance of 24.9 per cent from last year's September figure of 17,023 units. With decreases in all previous months of the year except August, output in the January-September period fell 9.5 per cent to 271,839 units from 300,365 a year ago.

September production of passenger cars increased by more than a third to 17,069 units from 12,447 a year earlier. Decreases in all previous months except June and August offset the increases and output in the January-September period decreased 8.0 per cent to 223,721 units from 243,278 last year. The month's production of commercial vehicles fell 8.5 per cent to 4,189 units from 4,576, and, with a lone increase in August, output in the nine months declined 15.7 per cent to 48,118 units from 57,087.