

# Canada Weekly

Volume 5, No. 4

January 26, 1977



Ottawa, Canada.

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## Canada's economic performance favourable compared to that of rest of the world

"Nothing short of remarkable," were the words used by Treasury Board President Robert Andras, comparing Canada's economic performance to the ten major countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development during the past four years.

Mr. Andras, addressing the Victoria Chamber of Commerce on December 20, told his audience he had asked his office to prepare a number of tables showing comparison of growth of real gross national product, inflation and unemployment with these countries. He described the results as follows:

\* \* \* \*

Let us look, first, at the growth of the country's gross national product in real terms, that is, after the "artificial" growth built into the dollar figures by rising prices has been eliminated. In 1972, the country's real GNP stood at about \$99.7 billion. In the following three years, our real GNP expanded by 6.8 per cent, 3.2 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively; so that it had risen last year to about \$111 billion; and, according to the latest OECD forecast, our real GNP growth rate is likely to be this year about 4.8 per cent, which would bring it to about \$116.5 billion.

In other words, we have managed to achieve, during the four years from 1973 to the end of 1976, real GNP gains of about \$16.8 billion.

To assess our performance on this

score, we must find out what our growth performance would have been if we had pursued different economic policies more or less similar to those adopted by other industrialized countries. You all know that economic policy-making involves difficult choices or "trade-offs" between goals such as growth of output, price stability, expanding employment and so on.

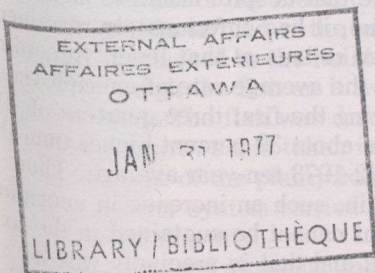
It should therefore surprise no one that other industrialized countries have made forecasts and trade-offs between economic goals somewhat different from ours. But were these choices any better than ours? To answer this question, let us see what would have been the real GNP gains of Canada if our national output had grown over the past four years at the same rates as those observed in those other countries.

Growth of real GNP in major OECD countries (percentage changes)

	Actual growth			Growth forecast
	1973	1974	1975	1976
Canada	6.8	3.2	0.6	5.0
United States	5.9	-1.7	-1.8	7.0
Japan	9.8	-1.1	2.1	6.25
Federal Republic of Germany	5.3	0.4	-3.2	5.5
France	5.9	3.1	-1.2	6.25
United Kingdom	5.6	0.3	-1.9	2.25
Italy	6.0	3.4	-3.7	1.5
Netherlands	5.2	3.3	-1.1	4.0
Belgium	6.1	4.0	-1.4	3.75
Sweden	3.5	4.1	0.6	1.5
OECD group	6.3	0.3	-1.2	5.5

Source: OECD – *Economic Outlook*, July 1976

OECD – *Main Economic Indicators*, November 1976



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...Only one country, namely Japan, has had a better growth performance than Canada since 1972 – and then only by a slim margin and at a comparatively high cost in terms of inflation and unemployment. If the Canadian economy had grown during these four years at the same rate as the Japanese economy, our real GNP gain would have been about \$17.4 billion. Comparisons with every other major industrialized country are highly favourable to us. The growth performance of France since 1972, for example, has been quite outstanding by OECD standards; yet if Canada had had the same year-to-year growth rates, its real GNP gains would have been lower by about \$3.4 billion from what they have actually been. Similarly, if our GNP had increased at the same rate as that of Belgium or the Netherlands, our output would have been lower by more than \$4 billion; if our economy had expanded at rates comparable to those of Italy or Sweden, we would have been lower by \$6 billion; and if our economic policies had been more or less along the lines of those of the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany – the two countries which have had significantly lower inflation than Canada – we would have lost \$8 billion or more in goods and services. As for Britain, it is well known that it has been seriously lagging behind the OECD pack in growth rate; so that Canadian GNP growth at British rates would have involved a loss of output of \$11.6 billion. So much for the so-called “British disease” which, according to some of our critics, is supposed to be infecting the Canadian economy!

### Inflation

Let us turn, secondly, to inflation. We are all aware that our performance on this score, until the end of last year, was nothing too remarkable – at least by comparison with that of the United States and the relatively low rates of inflation which we experienced more or less continuously until 1972. That is precisely why the Federal Government, in spite of its reluctance to interfere with economic decisions in the private sector, and particularly the wage-bargaining process, introduced last fall a controls program which has been highly controversial but, I should add, unquestionably successful.... The latest consumer price index

### Rise in consumer prices in major OECD countries (percentage changes)

	1973	1974	1975	1976* (Jan-Oct)
Canada	7.6	10.9	9.8	7.9
United States	6.2	11.0	9.1	6.0
Japan	11.7	24.5	11.8	9.1
Federal Republic of Germany	6.9	7.0	6.0	4.7
France	7.3	13.7	11.7	9.5
United Kingdom	9.2	16.0	23.4	16.5
Italy	10.8	19.1	17.0	15.3
Netherlands	8.0	9.6	10.2	8.9
Belgium	7.0	12.7	12.7	9.5
Sweden	6.7	10.1	9.7	10.0
OECD group	7.9	13.4	10.6	8.5

Source: OCED, *Main Economic Indicators*, November 1976  
OECD press release

\*Annual rates

figures published by Statistics Canada are most encouraging; the year-to-year increase in consumer prices registered last month was only 5.6 per cent – less than half the figure registered in November 1975 and the lowest recorded since 1972.

Still...over the past four years, consumer prices have risen in Canada by about 41.4 per cent, a rate of increase which clearly cannot be sustained in the long run if the economic expectations of Canadians are to be met. But there again, comparisons with the price performance of other major OECD countries indicate that, relatively speaking, our experience has not been all that bad. Two countries have done much better than us – Germany with a four-year price increase of about 33 per cent, and the United States with an increase of about 35 per cent; but they have done so, as I have just shown, at great sacrifice in terms of GNP growth. Two other countries, Sweden and the Netherlands, have experienced a rate of inflation similar to ours; but they have done so at a much higher price in terms of lost output and employment. The other five major OECD countries have all suffered from much higher inflation than Canada since 1972 – a rate of price increase of about 70 per cent in the case of Japan; and in Italy consumer prices have more than doubled since 1972!

### Unemployment

I come now to the third basic economic indicator, namely unemployment. This

is perhaps the area where international comparisons are most difficult, because even OECD countries do not measure unemployment on the same basis. But while actual rates of unemployment are generally not comparable between countries, the year-to-year trends in these rates can be compared; and such comparison is again very much in our favour. The average rate of unemployment in Canada during the ten-year period from 1962 to 1973, was 5.1 per cent. In 1974, our rate of unemployment increased moderately to 5.4 per cent; it further increased to 7.1 per cent in the course of 1975; and figures for the first nine months of 1976 indicate that despite month-to-month variations, it has unfortunately remained more or less at that level. Accordingly, the average rate of unemployment during the first three quarters of 1976 was about 39 percent higher than the 1962-1973 ten-year average. There again, such an increase in unemployment cannot be sustained in the long run; and that is precisely why my colleagues, the Ministers of Finance and of Manpower and Immigration, have announced recently a number of measures to boost employment, particularly during the winter months.

Yet, it must be recognized that, by and large, the deterioration in the employment situation has been much less severe in Canada than in most other OECD countries. The Swedes did better than us – in fact their unemployment rate was actually lower in the first nine months of 1976, than in the ten-year base period. The Italians have also done better than us – but, as I

### Newfoundland streamlines method of fish-processing

Newfoundland's Fisheries Minister, Walter Carter, recently announced the successful conclusion of a pilot project to develop a way of upgrading the quality of fish in the province.

The program, carried out with the co-operation of the fishermen of Admiral's Beach, St. Mary's Bay, the Fisheries College and the Inspection Branch of the Fisheries and Marine Services, involves the elimination of pronging, keeping fish iced at all times, bleeding and gutting fish whenever possible and processing fish as soon as possible.

A total of \$50,000 in federal and provincial funds was spent in the summer on ice-making facilities, an ice-holding unit, two electric hoists, a lighting system to the government wharf in the community and net bags for the vessels taking part in the experiment. Altogether four longliners and five skiffs, manned by 45 fishermen, participated.

#### Method

The vessels were supplied with the net bags capable of holding 1,000 pounds each. These bags were put in the holds of the boats, suspended from steel hooks ready for loading, and the loaded bags were lifted out of the holds with the aid of the electric hoists when the vessels arrived at the wharf. A dial scale attached to the hoist was intended to weigh the fish as it was being unloaded. The fish was discharged into wheelbarrows and taken into the holding room of the plant, from where a conveyor system carried it into the processing area.

Specially designed aluminum tables, equipped with safety harness, were purchased for installation aboard the longliners so that fishermen could clean their fish as it was taken on-board. The longliners carried ice if they travelled far from shore or if they remained at sea overnight.

Fishermen were able to unload their catch with very little effort and in a shorter period of time. As much as 5,000 lbs. of fish could be unloaded in a matter of ten minutes while fishermen using the traditional method of pronging had to work harder, took considerable time unloading their catch

and had fish of a lower quality when it reached the processing plant.

It is intended that hoppers or holding bins will be used to carry the fish from the wharf to the holding room. A system of conveyor belts will then carry the fish directly to the processing plant. When the project is in full swing there will be very little physical handling of the fish. The movement of the fish will be carried out through the use of nets, conveyor belts and other machinery.

The average yield of fish entering Newfoundland processing plants is approximately 35 per cent, the remainder is used for fish meal or discarded. The objective is to provide the necessary training and technology to increase the yield, which will result in increased earnings for fishermen and plant workers alike.

"I am looking forward to the day when the results of this project can be transferred to other areas of the province so that in a few years our fishermen will be able to handle their catch so that the finished product is second to none on the world market. It is only through proper care of the raw material that superior products can be produced and I am convinced that fishermen in this province will do everything in their power to see Newfoundland fish products rated the best in the world," declared Mr. Carter.

#### Portable incubator

A prototype portable incubator developed by the National Research Council of Canada has been pre-tested in collaboration with the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and is now ready for animal trials and clinical evaluation.

In an attempt to ensure against inadequate heating in incubators, which could lead to debilitating hypothermia (low body temperature) in premature or critically ill babies, NRC's Medical Engineering Section has chosen radiant heating in preference to the hot air heating system found in most incubators. This uses less power and provides a faster response to infant needs.

To combat respiratory distress syndrome (RDS), a complexity of problems that includes drying of airways, a specially designed humidifier is employed to keep humidity as high as required. Fogging of windows does not

occur because the transparent plastic double-walled windows are heated as part of the radiant heating supply. All access openings are gasketed. The oxygen supply consists of a small constant flow of oxygen (when needed) with a variable flow of air to dilute it. The air flow is provided by a servo-controlled constant-displacement pump which permits any desired oxygen percentage to be established and maintained independent of external perturbations.

#### Remote sensing in Latin America

Six Canadians working for private industry are spending most of January in Latin America to demonstrate the value of remote sensing, under the auspices of the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The six — captain Ernie Gardiner, pilot Bill Graves, crewman Ed Giles and sensor operators Bruce Fretts, Hugh McKay and Gord Doucette — left Ottawa on January 6. They are using a specially equipped *Falcon* fanjet over test areas in Guatemala, Colombia, Chile and Peru. With infrared film, normal colour film, an infrared line-scanner and other sophisticated equipment, the team will gain information on crops, forests, water resources, geology and land-use practices.

Cost of the work in Guatemala, Columbia and Chile will be paid by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. The cost in Peru will be borne by the Canadian International Development Agency, as part of a two-year project involving that country.

The countries will benefit in two ways. First, they will obtain useful information on their own resources. Also, they will be able to judge the effectiveness of remote sensing for other areas that have up to now been inaccessible. Success of the survey could result in further contract work for Canadian companies.

The film will be processed in Ottawa by the National Air Photo Library, a section of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The results, in the form of visible imagery, will be sent back to the countries for analysis. Part of the project involves training local people to analyze the results and apply the information to the solution of local problems.

### National parks winter wonderland

In the language of the Inuit there are at least a dozen common expressions, and numerous special ones, for the word "snow." Although most Canadians probably consider one word sufficient, words fail them when the time comes to describe these incredible crystals.

It is not easy to describe that magic white powder which makes Canadian winters so breathtakingly beautiful.

In Canada's national parks, winter is simply spectacular. Snow transforms already picturesque parklands into dazzling worlds of white. Silence fills the wilderness, giving the impression of impenetrable serenity. This atmosphere of calm is deceiving. Beneath the thick layer of quiet there is much activity: squirrels scurry back and forth from their food reserves, black bears nurse newly-born cubs, and burrowed beneath the snow, mice and woodchucks hibernate.



The black bear is not a true hibernator. Its body temperature remains almost normal and its rate of metabolism is only slightly reduced. In true hibernates, like the doormouse and the woodchuck, body temperatures fall until they are almost equal to that of the surrounding atmosphere.

The black bear does not store food. In late autumn, it gorges itself with a variety of wild fruit and berries, fish and carrion. When the temperature



drops below freezing, the bear retires to a rocky den or cave to while away the winter.

Occasionally, particularly if the weather warms up unexpectedly, the bear awakens. It may search for food and drink, or merely roll over and go back to sleep. During the winter, the female bear gives birth to twin cubs, each about the size of a squirrel.

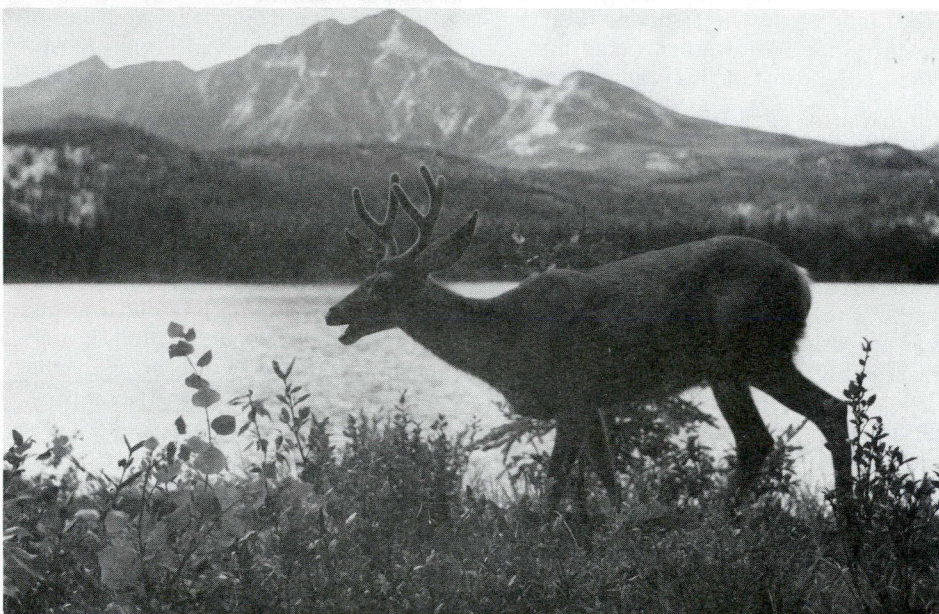
Deer concentrate in areas that provide adequate food and shelter from storms and deep snow. Deep snow makes movement difficult, but snow that packs and settles gives the deer extra height, enabling them to reach

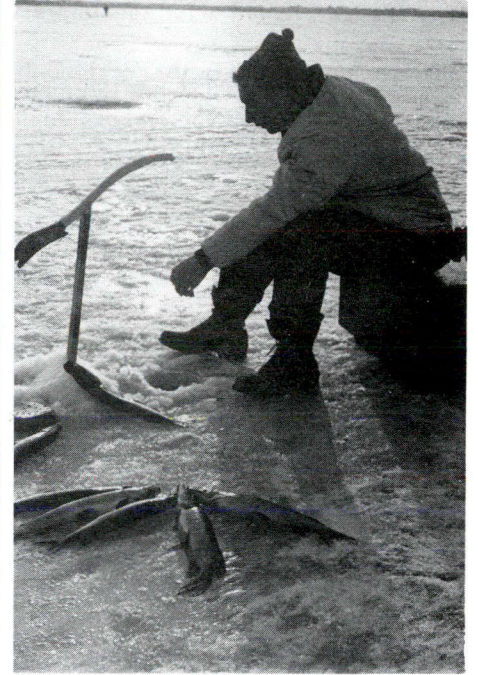
high into trees for food.

Several factors combine to create a winter that is good for wildlife. Generally soft, deep snow is best, and it must last. Animals suffer if there is inadequate snowfall, because they are unable to burrow beneath its protective blanket. Frozen rain forms a crust on the surface, preventing animals from seeking food beneath.

#### Recreation

While animals in the parks prepare for winter, park interpreters are busy preparing for winter visitors. Attendance at Canada's national parks





during the winter months has been boosted by the rising popularity of winter sports, especially cross-country skiing. Last winter, between December 1 and March 31, there were nearly two million visitors to the national parks of Canada.

In the winter, visitors to parks can enjoy a variety of recreational activities, including skating, tobogganing, snowmobiling, skiing – and even outdoor camping.

While most campers store their gear once the mercury dips, there are some whose enthusiasm is not dampened – or chilled – by the arrival of winter.

Some national parks, like Banff, Alberta, have unserviced winter campsites, located on remote trails. For public safety, winter visitors who are camping or touring must register before and after each trip.

Most national parks have areas specially designated for winter activities. Snowmobile trails, for example, are separate from tobogganing or cross-country ski trails. This separation ensures not only visitors' enjoyment, but their safety as well.

There is also fishing during winter months, in parks like Saskatchewan's Prince Albert National Park, where visitors ice-fish for northern pike, lake trout and walleye.

By far the most popular winter sport enjoyed in Canada's national parks is skiing. Down-hill and cross-country skiing facilities attract enthusiasts

from all over Canada and the United States. At the season's peak up to 2,500 visitors may be found on the slopes of Sunshine Village in Banff, Alberta.

Cross-country skiing doesn't attract the same crowds to a single location; but the number of skiers who enjoy the parks this way is growing steadily. In Quebec, where cross-country skiing has become very popular, the number of visitors to the national parks last

winter increased by 254 per cent.

One of the purposes of operating a national parks system in Canada is to educate Canadians about their natural environment. Parks Canada offers school programs year-round, providing interested groups with an opportunity to visit interpretation centres in the parks, and to appreciate the wonders of nature first-hand.

*(From Conservation Canada, winter 1976 issue.)*



### New Olympic record – for spectators

Competing athletes were not the only people to give their all and establish new horizons during the Montreal Olympics last summer. Spectators, too, did their bit – especially the chair-bound television variety.

Recently it was revealed that the 1976 Olympics became the most widely viewed event in history with an estimated one billion audience following the sporting progress on TV. Tele-globe Canada transmitted about 800 hours of television programs *via* satellite to Asia, Europe, Latin America and Africa. On some days more than 60 programs were transmitted and as many as five programs were transmitted across the Atlantic simultaneously during peak periods.

For global distribution, two satellites over the Atlantic were used as well as one over the Pacific and one over the Indian Ocean. All in all, the arrangements worked very satisfactorily, enabling the world at large to enjoy what was regarded as a highly successful Games.

### Toronto's tube transit energy savers

The first two subway cars of a 134-car order recently delivered to the Toronto Transit Commission, are equipped with regenerative chopper controls through which energy consumption will be reduced by at least 30 per cent.

After experimenting for about three years the TTC has discovered that, with the use of this equipment, energy lost through acceleration is almost entirely eliminated and much of the energy usually lost in braking is returned to the third rail.

The exterior design of the units is generally similar to the 328 cars built previously for the Commission by Hawker Siddeley Canada Ltd., the company constructing the present order, which will cost some \$6.5 million. Important new features include an enlarged driver's cab, brighter colours, a new heating system and improved seating. Also, for the first time in Toronto, the new vehicles will be air-conditioned.

The units will be put into service on the new Spadina subway extension in Toronto.

### Glassblowing art for science

Robert Ducourneau, Agriculture Canada's first and only scientific glassblower, who makes glass equipment for the department's research laboratories, says glassblowing is essential to research.

His craft is precise, combining glass-working skills with a knowledge of the sciences. Unlike the artistic glassblower, who uses only a few types of glass, the scientific glassblower has 70 kinds at his fingertips.

"Original research demands new types of equipment not available from manufacturers," Mr. Ducourneau says.



*Robert Ducourneau, Agriculture Canada's only scientific glassblower, fuses the neck on a flask. Mr. Ducourneau makes glass apparatus for Research Branch laboratories across Canada.*

Working with scientists, he styles equipment needed for experiments and modifies it as continuing research demands. Assignments vary. He makes coils of tubing for gas chromatographs, apparatus for distilling liquids and jars in which the action of a ruminant stomach can be simulated.

One apparatus, a device to measure mercury levels, built by Mr. Ducourneau is now used in laboratories in other parts of the world.

North America's 800 scientific glassblowers – 65 of them in Canada – are employed in industry, universities and government.

### Youthful diggers find history in their own backyards

During the past year, some 30 youngsters in Halifax, Nova Scotia, most of whom have at one time or another run afoul of the law, have been finding history, and themselves, in their own backyards.

The kids live in an area referred to as "the old north end diversion", settled about 1760 by German farmers.

Their interest in history awoke only when some of them began visiting vacant lots and demolished building sites with Barry Edwards, a recreation worker and long-time digger. Intrigued with the idea of buried treasure and impressed with their finds, the youngsters soon wanted to display their collections.

A committee of four young people and four adults including Barry Edwards, found that various organizations were prepared to help them with donations for a museum and they collected about \$5,000 towards the establishment of the centre.

Instead of tagging the various articles in the collection, the kids "run the museum" and it is they who tell the story of each piece to visitors. Rare items have been donated to the museum, but the remaining artifacts belong to the youngsters who found them and they can be removed at any time. Top diggers have collections worth \$3,000.

Feedback from parents is all positive; in fact, they want to help. Schools are beginning to think of classes on the subject and Halifax historian Lou Collins is expected to become more and more involved.

### Youngsters benefit

The greatest success, however, is what has happened to the young people themselves. Because of their interest, they have been reading about Halifax history in the archives and talking to old timers in the area. Also, they have developed a new-found respect for private property and a pride in the worth of their own project.

Next summer, the youngsters plan to tour the province for possible dig sites, but for the present they want to stay in their own backyards where one man's garbage of long ago becomes an excited kid's treasure.

## News of the arts

### Dance troupe scores in New York

Entre six, a modern dance company from Montreal, made its *début* in New York in December, the only foreign troupe to appear in a dance festival held at the theatre of the well-known Riverside Church, with contemporary dancers from across the United States.

The opening performance of Entre Six was reviewed in glowing terms by *The New York Times* critic Clive Barnes, who described them as a "most engaging company of six lively dancers...the performance has the air of both a team and a family." The artistic director, Lawrence Gradus, was praised as "clearly a choreographer of unusual originality...Gradus asks very difficult physical feats of his dancers, with soaring leaps and dangerous lifts.... There is also a strong vein of humour running through this interesting young man's work."

Entre Six, currently on tour in Quebec and New Brunswick, will return for a month of performances in Montreal in February and March before leaving for the West Coast for productions in Vancouver, British Columbia.

*Four members of the Montreal company Entre Six perform Toccata, music by Benjamin Britten, choreographed by Lawrence Gradus.* ▶



### Canadians broadcast in Australia

When Canadian *mezzo-soprano* Huguette Tourangeau was in Australia in the summer performing at the Sydney Opera House, the Canadian Consulate General in Sydney arranged for an interview on a popular FM radio interview series. The interview was broadcast in December 1976 and a number of Miss Tourangeau's recordings were played: *Arias from Forgotten Operas* (London) and recordings of the operas *Les Huguenots*, *Therese and Maria Stuarda* (Decca). Miss Tourangeau's photo appeared on the cover of the Australia Broadcasting Corporation magazine of FM radio listings.

As a result of regular distribution of CBC International recordings to the FM network, and donations from the Canadian Consulate General, there is a regular series of programs "Musicians in Canada" heard every two weeks, which features Canadian musicians and compositions.



*Huguette Tourangeau*

### International sculpture conference

Toronto will be host city to the tenth International Sculpture Conference, to be held at the York University campus in June 1978. This is the first time it will take place outside the United States. David Silcox, conference chairman, and director of cultural affairs for Metro Toronto, said, "We are honoured that Canada has been chosen as a site for this important tenth conference and recognized as a major contributor to world sculpture."

The conference, held every two years, was initiated in 1958 by the National Sculpture Centre of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.

From 1,200 to 1,500 delegates are expected to attend the meeting, which is the largest gathering of sculptors, and people working in fields related to sculpture, in the world.

The last conference was held in New Orleans.

### Canada's economic performance...

(Continued from p. 2)

have just indicated, at a very considerable price in terms of inflation, since consumer prices have more than doubled in that country.

But in the other six major OECD countries, the labour market situation has been much more severe. Canadians are well aware that for the past three years, unemployment in the United States has been consistently higher than in Canada — a rather significant reversal of the traditional pattern, since during the previous decade, our unemployment rate tended to be somewhat above that of the United States. But it is much less appreciated in this country that the European economies have suffered from much higher unemployment in the past three years than at any other time in the postwar period, despite the fact that their labour force is growing much more slowly than that of Canada. In the decade from 1962 to 1973, for example, the average rate of unemployment in the Federal Republic of Germany was 1.3 per cent; in the first nine months of 1976, that country's unemployment rate was 4.6 per cent — an increase of more than 250 per cent. The deterioration of the employment situation was even more severe in the Netherlands, while the unemployment rate more than doubled this year in Britain, France and Belgium. Even in Japan, the unemployment trend has been somewhat worse since 1973 than it has been in Canada: during the first three quarters of 1976, their unemployment rate was about 62 percent higher than in the ten-year base period.

#### Canadians too introspective

I suggest...that Canadians should assess their country's economic performance and the Government's econo-

mic policies by international standards rather than almost exclusively on the basis of their own very high expectations. There is no doubt that a high rate of growth, combined with stable prices and full employment, would be highly desirable for Canada. But while we must continue to strive for these goals, we must realize that they have virtually never been reached substantially by any government anywhere in the world, except in a very small number of special cases for very short periods of time. We Canadians, feeling more or less isolated from Ottawa, each in our own region, tend to become too

introspective. We indulge too readily in self-analysis and much too rarely in world-scanning. We too often tend to look at our problems in isolation, without reference to the broader international context in which we live; and consequently we tend to forget how very lucky we are, in the riches which nature has bestowed upon us, the unique experience from which history has allowed us to benefit, and the wisdom and prudence which our social and cultural make-up has allocated us to apply in the conduct of our national affairs.

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#### News briefs

- General J.A. Dextraze, Chief of Defence Staff, says the Canadian Armed Forces must be increased by 4,000 to 5,000 persons to meet all defence commitments at home and abroad. In a speech to the 150 representatives of the 25-member Conference of Defence Associations, he said he had recommended to Defence Minister Danson that the increase from the present 78,000 be spread over the next three to five years.
- Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, William Barton, told the UN Security Council on January 13 that the Geneva conference still offered the best hopes for achieving black majority rule in Rhodesia.
- Exports of Canadian crude oil to the United States will be allowed to increase by 6,000 barrels a day to 315,000 barrels a day in February.
- The 1,700-member Hairstylists of Ontario Association has announced that the cost of a man's haircut will increase from \$4.50 to \$5 effective February 1. Longer hairstyles don't require as much care and the average person may wait six weeks or even two months before cutting, says Jean Andari, president of the association.
- After 57 years of providing security at the Royal Canadian Mint, the RCMP are no longer responsible for guarding the nation's money. The job has been given to a private security firm. RCMP Superintendent Syd Yelle said that since the Mint became a Crown corporation in 1969 the force "no longer feels it can perform a police function there."
- Air Canada and CP Air announced

on January 17 they would apply for domestic fare increases of 7 per cent, following a 12.5 percent rise in domestic fares last year, which was implemented in two stages. Both airlines reported substantial losses last year and have indicated further substantial losses for 1976.

- A syndicate of 16 international banks from seven countries, led by the Citicorp International group, has completed a five-year term loan of \$215 million (U.S.) to the City of Montreal to finance Montreal's share of obligations in the building of facilities for the 1976 Olympics.
- Saskatchewan's Finance Minister, Walter Smishek, says that province may face a deficit of more than \$50 million for the current fiscal year.
- Alberta's Premier, Peter Lougheed, says his province's economy should be "almost" as vibrant in 1977 as it was in 1976, with the over-all level of activity maintained.
- The Employers Council of British Columbia says the province's economic performance will be weak in 1977.
- Federal Labour Minister John Munro was scheduled to visit London from January 11 to 14 for discussions with representatives of the British Government, trade unions and industry.
- The Stratford Festival gave a lifetime pass to William Bond of Bryan, Ohio, U.S. for being the millionth student to attend the special student matinee performances at Stratford. It was his first visit. Stratford's student program began in 1958, with students coming from Canada and many other countries.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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