

Canada's standard of living cannot be maintained

Controls on profits and dividends—stiffer than those of wages—will be felt soon in the Canadian economy, but the cost of energy in the future will "quadruple", said Finance Minister, Donald MacDonald last week.

The minister was appearing with Halton M.P. Dr. Frank Philbrook before a mixed crowd of about 300 at Oakville-Trafalgar High School to explain the government's anti-inflation programme and to field questions from the audience. Dr. Philbrook is a member of the finance committee.

The minister said that a one year freeze on profits and

dividends would restrain demands of wage earners for a share of the take.

The rate of growth of the money supply would be restricted, MacDonald said, to the rate of real growth of the economy and "some but not all" of the rate of inflation. At present, this is done by the Bank of Canada which is charging 10 percent interest on money loaned to the commercial banks.

This tactic, in addition to cutting government expenditures, is the means the federal government is using to combat inflation, MacDonald said.

One of the "biggest"

government expenditures, the minister said, was \$1.5 billion spent to keep the price of oil down from world prices. To remove the subsidy as an anti-inflation device would not work, he said, because Canadians would immediately be paying higher prices for oil.

As he said that the price of oil would increase in steps the minister's hand made an ascending motion in the air.

He said the standard of living and public services the Canadian public have enjoyed the past 30 years would not continue without substantial efforts.

"We're out of the era of cheap energy," he said. "Because we pay more for

energy, we won't have money left over for other things."

During the question period which saw a steady stream of people approach the microphone to question him, MacDonald said that the spread between what lending institutions pay for money and what they rent it out at will be maintained regardless of increases or decreases in interest rates.

He replied to several questions which questioned the need of an increase in mortgage rates. Recently the increase in mortgage rates has risen one-half of one percent.

The finance minister acknowledged that cost of homes would increase, and said

it would be subsidized. It will be "a record year" for housing starts, he said.

MacDonald defended the government's own 16 percent increase in anticipated expenditures against criticism that the public were being asked to cut back by a government that could not set an example.

He said the federal government was faced with the same inflation rate as other sectors of the economy and had to provide additional services to a growing community as well as pay for increases in the peace and security programme.

He said that the federal

government would continue to pay half of the provinces' welfare bills, but only to a limit. Measures to change the levels of benefit from the Unemployment Insurance Commission will bring down the costs of running that service, he said.

In replying to a question on what the Anti-Inflation Board cost to set up and run, MacDonald said he did not have the actual figures but that the initial appropriation for the first three months was "some \$15 million" and it was difficult to tell how much the board would cost over the three years it is to be in existence.



SAV FRANK, HOW MUCH DO I MAKE? asked MP Dr. Frank Philbrook that question "Donald MacDonald, minister of finance, at a meeting last Wednesday.

EFCO workers begin strike

Local 7337 of the United Steel Workers of America representing employees at Economy Forms Corp., Canadian Division Plant EFCO on Todd Road, began a legal strike last Friday

Glen Magnuson elected PC pres.

Glenn Magnuson will serve another year as president of the Georgetown branch of the Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative Association. Mr. Magnuson was re-elected at the annual nomination meeting of the Georgetown branch of the P.C. association last Wednesday evening in St. Alban's Church hall in Glen Williams.

morning against the Georgetown branch of the American-based firm.

Over 50 employees, approximately 90 percent Georgetown residents, are still

Officers for 1976 include: vice-presidents Ab Tennant and Robert Small; secretary, Sandy Morrow; treasurer, George Gray and directors Marilyn Milton and Peter Ramsay.

Fran Baines, past-president of the Georgetown branch, announced the proposed slate of officers each of whom was unanimously voted in.

picketing the plant for what Reg Benoit, president of the Union, termed, "unfair wage offers and poor working conditions."

Mr. Benoit explained that the Union began negotiating with heads of EFCO last fall protesting the three-year contract that the company planned to initial. The Union

was bargaining for a two-year contract and an increase in salaries plus an improvement in company working conditions.

EFCO in the proposed three-year contract, would institute a 17 percent wage increase effective immediately with an 8 percent an hour increase for the following two years. The Union

are persuing a two-year contract with a \$1 an hour increase in wages effective immediately and for the second year a \$1 increase in wage and/or benefits.

Between the months of September and March some 18 meetings were held in attempts to reach a resolution but according to Mr. Benoit,

"the company did not want to come to an agreement."

"The present wage structure is way below normal and there's not a good working atmosphere within the plant. It has started off as a bitter strike. With this company being an American firm they think they can walk all over everybody," said Mr. Benoit.



"I'LL STRIKE FOR TWO-THREE YEARS," said one of the striking employees of EFCO, Local No. 7337 United Steel Workers of America representing employees at EFCO on Todd Rd. staged a legal strike as of 7 a.m. Friday morning.

Announce reading winner



DR. ELIZABETH THORN, (centre) was the recipient of the first Ginn and Co. Reading Award, from Georgetown District High School teacher and chairman of the Reading

Award Committee of York University, Tom Ramautarsingh (left), and Frank Watson, president of Ginn and Co., Educational Publishers.

Dr. Elizabeth Thorn, an elementary school teacher whose interests and concerns in the field of reading have taken her from the school classroom to the lecture halls of Nipissing University in North Bay has been named the first recipient of the Ginn and Company Reading Award.

Dr. Thorn has been a Professor of Language Arts at the Faculty of Education at Nipissing University since 1960. She is co-author of the text "Teaching the Language Arts" and has written many articles in the Ontario Teachers' College Association Journal, the Manitoba Journal of Education and the

Saskatchewan Reading Council Query.

She was selected by the Reading Award Committee of York University which was chaired by Georgetown high school teacher Tom Ramautarsingh. The presentation was made at the Reading '76 Conference held recently at York.

Over 1,500 delegates, speakers and seminar leaders took part in the four-day conference.

In naming the first recipient of the Ginn Award Mr. Ramautarsingh noted that several nominations of high calibre were received and the

result was very close. All conference committee members selected the winner by secret ballot.

Frank Watson, president of Ginn and Company, made the presentation of behalf of his firm. Accompanying the citation was an honorarium of \$500.

Pioneer Days organizers look for help from groups

Kicking off the summer of 1976 in Georgetown will be the town's annual salute to the days of old, "Pioneer Days". In previous years they have been held in August but this year they are slated for June 24, 25 and 26.

The Pioneer Days committee's prime purpose behind organizing such an event is to attract people—both Halton Hills residents and out-of-town visitors—to one of Georgetown's Main Street. Items of interest that have historical and cultural value will be displayed in hopes of giving people more insight into Georgetown's history.

It is the main aim of the Pioneer Days committee to try

to eliminate any overbearing commercial aspect.

Already in the planning stages, the Pioneer Days committee is extending an invitation to local groups and organizations in town to participate in this annual downtown event. It is hoped that groups which do take an interest come up with different ideas on how they wish to salute days of past, whether it be by bake sales, a strawberry social, quilting bee, crafts demonstrations and sales or whatever the groups can originate.

Any groups wishing to participate in Georgetown's Pioneer Days is asked to contact Betty Anne Smith at 877-7334.

Reed opens office in Milton

Julian Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington, announced Monday that a riding office will open on March 22, at 225 Main Street, Milton. The telephone number is 878-1729.

The purpose of the riding office is to provide improved contact between constituents and the various branches of the government which in recent years have played an increasingly prominent role in people's lives, Reed explained. His constituency office secretary Mrs. Donna Hume, will be available at this office to handle constituency matters and to arrange appointments with him.

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Ministry inspectors test above and below dump

At the waste disposal site on Armstrong Ave. in Georgetown and along the banks of the Credit River, Larry Talbot and Jim Dulney of the ministry of the environment collected samples of water from five locations Friday morning.

They were unable to collect any water at a sixth location because of insufficient flow. Water to be tested for leachate from the Credit River above and below the waste disposal site and leachate pumping station was collected. The water from above the site will act as a control to be compared with the sample taken from downstream of the site, Dulney told the Herald.

Samples were collected from two small streams flowing into the Credit River, from the highest and lowest points of the ditch running alongside the northern perimeter of the waste disposal site and from the ditch between the site and Armstrong Ave.

Three samples of liquid were collected at each site, Dulney explained. One would be for organic and chemical analysis, the second for bacteriological analysis and the third for inorganic and

metal analysis, Dulney said. Neither he nor Talbot took tests on site to determine the

amount of dissolved oxygen present in the water to oxidize the organic matter.

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