

Reed's report from Queen's Park

By JULIAN REED MPP
HALTON-BURLINGTON.
Following is a partial text of the Lieutenant Governor's Prorogation Speech of Dec. 18, 1981.

"Financial matters and the economy in general have been a primary concern throughout the year... The economic pressures... have been hard on all sides. Sustained high interest rates, which have only recently eased downward, dealt a particularly harsh blow to farmers and home owners, prompting the need for supportive measures."
"Low prices exacerbated the credit problems faced by livestock producers, whose income accounts for more than one third of farm gate receipts. Under an emergency plan announced in June, the province allocated \$37 million for cash payments to see beef producers through this hardship. As of Dec. 1, an additional \$20 million is being made available to cow-calf producers to help maintain the stability of the beef industry, in the absence of an adequate national program."
"Among measures taken during the year to meet needs in the housing field were: the Ontario neighborhood im-

provement program, the Ontario rental construction loan program, and the residential energy advisory program. Reductions in the differential between rural and urban hydro



JULIAN REED
rates have been authorized under amendments to the Power Corporation Act."
"Legislation was passed to enlarge the mandate of the former Ministry of Housing to incorporate municipal affairs. A new approach to amalgamation or boundary disputes between municipalities is now law. The new Planning Act has had second reading and will

receive committee consideration over the winter."
"...the government has entered into arrangements for the purchase of 25 per cent of the shares of the Sun Company Incorporated, Pennsylvania... other Canadian investment will be sought to bring the level of Canadian ownership of shares in Sunco to 51 per cent in the near future."
"The shift from more traditional industries to new technologies is making itself felt. In certain sectors of the economy, the impact of these changes has resulted in harmful employee layoffs. At the same time, the demand in newer areas and particularly in advanced technology skills, is rapidly increasing."
"Our educational institutions have a crucial role to play in helping society to meet these changes. Two studies, commissioned by the government last year, were published this fall, namely the report of the secondary education review project and the final report of the committee on the future role of universities in Ontario... Various programs are in place to forge stronger links between the educational and industrial sectors."
"Tourism in Ontario had the

best year ever in 1981, with especially high gains in visits from the United States."
"The report of the royal commission on pensions, published early this year, has received wide attention. A final response has since been prepared by a select committee of the Legislature, with recommendations for implementation proposals."
"Pensioners, lower-income earners and persons on fixed incomes have been granted a new home heating tax credit to protect them against cost increases."
"Standing committees of the House have given thorough consideration to the Ontario Human Rights Code 1981 and to new legislation for civilian

review of complaints against the police, the latter being a pilot project specifically for Metropolitan Toronto."
"The revisions to the human rights code are among the most extensive in its 19-year history and now include handicapped, marital and family status as prohibited grounds of discrimination, among other provisions."
"Services for francophone citizens have been markedly improved... The right to use French in civil trials, to come into effect next April 1, will cover 80 per cent of Ontario's francophone population. Access to bilingual criminal trials is already available to 100 per cent of the French-speaking population."
"Administration of the government-wide customer service program is now concentrated in a new service development division of the Ministry of Government Services, reinforcing the continuing high priority of this aspect of government operations."
"The International Year of Disabled Persons received widespread recognition throughout the community... New initiatives affecting several existing government programs for disabled persons included the extension of basic eligibility for family benefits, additional attendant care services, improved access to provincial parks and revised rules for sales tax rebates on vehicles for use by the disabled."

NDP economy survey found some optimism

By SEAN FINLAY
Ottawa Bureau of The Herald
Second of two parts
Despite the doom, gloom, frustration and anger about the Canadian economy, there is an element of optimism, says Nelson Riis (NDP-Kamloops-Shuswap).
While a typical presentation to the NDP task force he headed would express anger, frustration and disappointment, it would also say things needn't be this way, says Mr. Riis.
"Out of that would flow statements about what we should be doing, what we could be doing."
"There were many positive suggestions," says Mr. Riis, and these positive suggestions will be included in his report to the NDP.
His report should be public by the time Parliament gets back to work Jan. 25.
"What I want to include in the report are solutions to the problems."
"With any luck, I hope to be able to provide the framework for an industrial strategy for the country, the regions and the provinces, that reflects the

realities of the 80s and 90s as opposed to the 50s and 60s."
"I think most of whatever industrial strategy political parties have tends to reflect the past as opposed to the present or the future."
Canada has some obvious advantages — such as energy resources — that it ought to be capitalizing on, says Mr. Riis.
"We've got obvious advantages over Korea or Japan," says Mr. Riis. "Why doesn't it come together?"
His report, he expects, will also deal with inflation and monetary policy.
There are two ways to fight inflation, says Mr. Riis, but Canadians have only heard about one way — high interest rates.
BEEN BLUDGEONED
"We've been bludgeoned with that," he says and high interest rates have forced Canadians to cut back.
"We've done that admirably. We're starting to shrink now. But it hasn't stopped inflation."
A number of people told the task force there is another way to fight inflation, says Mr. Riis, and that is to increase productivity.

His report, says Mr. Riis, will be one more voice the government will have to either ignore or use to change its mind.
People know what should and what could be done to improve the economy and Mr. Riis worries that if nothing is done, the economy is going to get a lot worse.
And if the economy becomes worse, he thinks law and order will start to break down, that there will be civil disobedience.
"It's not going to come on a major scale, because Canadians are who they are."
The task force heard "on a number of occasions" that communities which had had violent crimes had started experiencing them.
"Mayors and aldermen attributed this, in part, to the difficult economic situation," says Mr. Riis.

Woods, Water and Wildlife A different kind of theft

By RON REID
Federation of Ontario Naturalists
By now we've all become accustomed to stories about the theft of money or jewels, but the work of felons is not restricted to such common items. Increasingly, nesting birds are becoming victims too, with their nests and eggs stolen right out from beneath them!
Why would anyone want to rob a nest? For money, of course. Amateur egg-collectors, or oologists, stock their secret collections with nests and eggs stolen in the middle of the night, often paying handsomely for a rare find. In Britain, where the collections are most common, a peregrine falcon nest can fetch \$2,500 on the black market. Last year, 46 falcon nests were robbed of eggs or young, making this "hobby" a serious obstacle to the success of this endangered species.
Canada is not immune either. In Churchill, Manitoba, the nest of a rare Rose's gull disappeared one night last summer. Only three nests of this rare, pink-breasted gull were known, and the loss of one was a maddening, frustra-

ting event. Anticipating problems, the World Wildlife Fund (Canada) had paid for a hired guard on the nests, but their efforts were thwarted by a determined thief.
British naturalists are turning to modern technology to help prevent the thefts of the nest of falcons and ospreys. Volunteers from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds had previously been using microphones to listen for prowlers, but a windy or rainy night made the microphones unreliable. Now they are being assisted by the use of special pocket monoculars, originally designed to help sufferers of "night blindness". These compact monoculars, which contain over a million tiny cores of optical fibres, gather light so efficiently that nest-watches can detect the slightest disturbance with ease.
The monoculars, which have been donated to the nest guardians by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, will also be used to study the nocturnal behaviour of waterfowl. But their greatest use will be in the stopping of the nest-robbers, to help save some of Britain's rarest birds.

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