

Private Planning Association Studies Top Economic Issues

By **REFORD MacDOUGALL**
MONTREAL (CP)—The Private Planning Association, an independent study organization, aims at the public mind on economic issues by providing facts and suggestions.

The association, made up of businessmen, labor leaders, agriculture spokesmen and education authorities, recently published its 26th study since being founded five years ago.

The booklet traced the history of relations between Canada and Latin America. It then discussed the pros and cons of Canada joining the Organization of American States.

Examples of other booklets published by the PPAC are: Economic Planning: The Relevance of the Western European Experience for Canada; The U.S. Trade Expansion Act: How Will it Affect Canadian-American Trade; and Tax Aspects of Canada's International Competitive Position.

Concerned with the frictions between Canada and the U.S., the PPAC's first step in 1958 was to study Canada's trading policies in light of changes in the world economy.

Both committees try to take a broad approach to problems they study.

"We are not a lobby group," says Arthur Smith, Harvard-educated research director for the PPAC. "Our aim is not to influence policy in Ottawa or Washington directly but to provide the public with facts and ideas for constructive thinking."

Mr. Smith said in an interview that the committees meet regularly to discuss problems and to authorize studies.

CONCERNED WITH FUTURE

"The committees are concerned not merely with current problems," he said, "but also with problems which may arise in the future and which may be averted through timely consideration."

Once a problem is selected to study, an expert is assigned to report on it. The results of his research then must be approved by a majority of committee members before they are published.

About 8,000 copies of each booklet are printed and these are available for broad distribution to universities, libraries, civil servants, business firms, labor unions, the general public and members of the association.

"The publications don't pretend to offer the absolute answer to any problem," Mr. Smith emphasized. "If a problem has a ready solution, it wouldn't really be a problem."

The booklets were written in terms the educated laymen could understand. They were not aimed at the mass public, nor were they written by economists for economists.

Prices of the booklets range from 25 cents to \$2 and "in most cases approximately cover only printing and distribution costs," said Mr. Smith.

Judy Regrets Pension Plan Made Issue

LONDON, Ont. (CP)—Health Minister Judy LaMarsh said Wednesday night she regrets the Canada pensions plan has become a partisan political issue and is confident a universal pension plan will be in effect

in a new address. At a meeting of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario, she also said a federal government study of more adequate housing for the aged is under way, and new means are being sought to provide production and useful employment for older people.

Text of her speech was given to reporters before delivery.

The federal government's proposed contributory retirement pension plan, introduced in the Commons in July, will be discussed at a federal-provincial conference next Monday and Tuesday in Ottawa.

"My own regret, and I know it is one that is shared by many of you here and by responsible officials at all levels of government, is that this question of pensions has taken on a distinctly partisan flavor," she said.

"But we cannot be blind to certain differences which have arisen. If we accept them with candor and a desire to solve them, we will have made a good beginning."

She said Quebec's intention to proceed alone in pension legislation is within Quebec's constitutional right, and she added: "I am sure in the present spirit of co-operative federalism a way will be found wherein universal pensions will be available at a decent level and in a few years, to all Canadians, to ensure their retirement in dignity and security."

FEW WERE WORKLESS

Norway had 5,493 registered unemployed in June, 1963—only 3 per cent of the total labor force.

Diefenbakers Head For Cairo

ROME (Reuters)—John Diefenbaker, leader of Canada's Conservative opposition, a former prime minister, left here by air Wednesday for Cairo after a two-day private visit.

Earlier Wednesday he called on foreign minister Antonio Piccioni. They discussed international problems, touching on issues before the forthcoming general assembly of the United Nations.

The Canadian opposition leader, who was received in private audience by Pope Paul Tuesday at the pontiff's summer residence near Rome, will travel on to Israel from Cairo before returning home.

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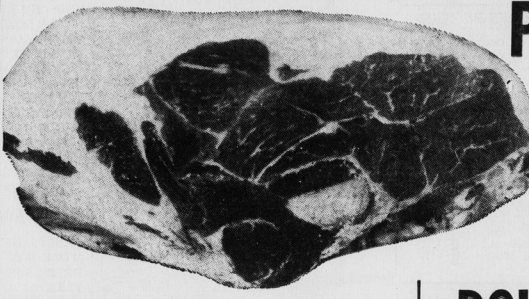


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