

**Gross National
Product Gain
Is Predicted**

MONTREAL (CP)—A nine-man panel of economists predicts Canada's Gross National Product will gain 4½ per cent in 1964, reaching approximately \$4,500,000,000.

The Canadian Economic Forum was sponsored by the National Industrial Conference Board—a non-profit, industrial research institution.

The economists were W. Allan Beckett, W. A. Beckett Associates; William E. Haviland, Canadian Pulp and Paper Association; John D. Patterson, Imperial Oil Limited; John W. Bank of Nova Scotia; Walter Popkin, Sun Life Assurance Company; Forrest L. Rogers, Bank of Nova Scotia; Walter A. Smith, T. Eaton Company; Albert T. Sommers, New York branch of NIBC; Gerald D. Sutton, Nesbitt, Thomson and Company; and Nicholas S. Takacs, Greenfields Incorporated.

The forum agreed business activity will be greater next year despite some serious trouble spots, including a rate of employment not appreciably lower than it has been recently. Individual forecasts range from a gain in NDP during 1964 ranged from 2½ to six per cent.

PREDICT INCREASES

The forum also predicted:
1. The industrial production index will reach 200 (base year 1949 equals 100), compared with an estimated 195 for 1963;

2. The consumer price index will edge up slowly to 135 from 133;

3. Unemployment will rise to an annual average of 5.8 per cent of the work force, against 4.7 per cent in 1963, reflecting the growing inflow of young people into the labor market.

The economists also foresaw a sharp expansion of exports for 1964, stemming largely from wheat sales to Russia and improvement in overseas markets for manufactured goods.

The big question mark for next year is an impending capital investment boom. Panelists felt Canada is not on the threshold of a major upsurge in capital spending, but it is a great question whether it will start next year or in 1965.

Roy A. Matthews, NIBC's economist, said in a summary of the forum's findings that balance of payments problems in Canada and the United States are "potential dangers to an otherwise healthy economic situation."

"By post-war standards this has been a prolonged expansion and on past experience or cyclical behavior one might expect that any day now we would be heading into another recession."

"However, the present condition of the Canadian economy—and that of the United States—supports a different impression. Most elements of the business scene appear relatively strong and there is little sign of the excesses and imbalances that we have learned to recognize as forerunners of a general economic contraction," said Mr. Matthews.

**Alberta Phones
Placed On Alert**

EDMONTON (CP)—Alberta government telephone was a province-wide alert immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy Friday, an AGT official said Wednesday.

J. W. Dodds, AGT general manager, said instructions to have the telephone system prepared to cope with any emergency came from North American Air Defence headquarters in Colorado, which uses AGT for defence communications. Several hundred AGT maintenance technicians throughout the province were notified of the alert and were told to make their whereabouts known at all times so they could be called to duty.

Mr. Dodds said no special hot lines were required for the alert because under defence commitments these special lines always are held open.

Civil defence officials in Edmonton said they were flooded with telephone calls matched the total during the Cuban crisis last year.

**Fish Facilities
Planned For 23
Nfld Communities**

OTTAWA (CP)—A \$450,000 program to build community fish-processing buildings at 23 Newfoundland fishing ports was announced Wednesday by federal Fisheries Minister Robichaud.

The structures, known as community stages, will be erected with federal funds on sites provided by the province, which also will supervise construction and operate the facilities.

There now are 50 community stages in Newfoundland ports, providing local fishermen with facilities for handling or processing salt or fresh fish. Sixteen of the new stages, worth \$25,000 each, will have facilities for processing salted fish. The other seven, costing \$1,000 apiece, will be for fresh fish only.

Locations are to be decided in consultation with the provincial fisheries department.

FORMED POLICE
The North West Mounted Police, later the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was formed in 1873.

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