

Seat discounts to bring profit?

MONTREAL (CP) — With its seat sale going like gangbusters, Air Canada has a small chance of breaking even this year despite president Claude Taylor's earlier pessimism.

Taylor, in fact, is the source of new optimism that the carrier can bounce back from a \$32.6-million loss last year to turn a profit in the current fiscal year.

One reason is the success of the Crown-owned airline's seat sale. About 70 per cent of the 750,000 seats placed on sale last week for the mid-fall period have been sold.

If consumer spending on air travel starts mirroring the economic upturn and if the airline has a better fourth quarter this year than last — it lost \$55 million in the fourth quarter of 1982 — then there is still hope of breaking even, Taylor told reporters Monday after addressing an aviation conference.

"Last year, the fourth quarter was a disaster, and (so far) 1983 has been a disaster," he said. Air Canada lost \$9 million in the first six months of the year, but made money in the second quarter.

One of the reasons for the airline's financial improvement has been service and staff reductions to reflect reduced passenger traffic.

Short of reaching a new work-sharing agreement with the pilots' union, Taylor said only a tremendous surge of business would cause the airline to cancel the planned layoff of 200 pilots scheduled for Jan. 1.

Under an agreement that expires on Dec. 31, pilots accepted a five-per-cent wage reduction to preserve 147 jobs. Management and the union are exploring the possibility of a new deal.

The airline also plans to lay off 375 flight attendants and 128 machinists this fall.

The layoffs reflect continued reduced operating levels expected for the first few months of 1984, Taylor said.

Despite the appeal of discounts, domestic airlines will probably apply again for the five-per-cent regular fare increase denied them during the summer by federal cabinet order, Taylor said.

Ottawa said the increase would have to wait until October to conform with its six-and-five anti-inflation guidelines.

Tax forms to change next year

OTTAWA (CP) — Personal income figures from past years will no longer be included on income tax forms, says Revenue Minister Pierre Bussieres.

Bussieres was responding to a question by Liberal back-bencher John Reid, MP for the Ontario riding of Kenora-Rainy River, who had complained early this year that the figures, which first appeared on last year's tax forms, were an "enormous invasion of privacy."

An aide to Bussieres said the figures were dropped because taxpayers were not making enough use of them to justify putting them on the form.

The figure was the average net income of the taxpayer for the past three years and, according to Bussieres, was designed to help the taxpayer decide whether he or she could make use of new income averaging provisions in the tax act.

The provisions permit taxpayers whose net income in a year exceeds their average income for the past three years by 10 per cent to make use of forward averaging and spread the excess income over future years.

NEW SYSTEM URGED

Non-violent inmates 'shouldn't be in jail'

Southam News
OTTAWA — Restitution to victims and community work orders make far more sense than costly imprisonment of non-violent offenders, say the men who run Canada's prisons.

A report drawn up by federal Commissioner of Corrections Don Yeomans and his provincial counterparts earlier this summer says imprisonment is becoming a "form of conspicuous luxury" for a society wishing to rid itself of undesirables.

The report notes the vast majority of federal and provincial inmates are behind bars for non-violent offences, and the corrections heads make their case for fewer prison sentences on economics.

The report contains some startling figures.

The federal penitentiary population of 11,000, for instance, has grown by 25 inmates a week since the beginning of 1983. By the end of April, the report notes, that meant a requirement for a new 400-man institution. By the end of the year, it will mean three new 400-man prisons should be built.

But new prisons aren't on the way, so authorities have had to resort to double-bunking, a practice detested by inmates and wardens alike. Double bunking means unrest, and 720 federal inmates now share 360 cells.

Draft standards for Canadian prisons state: "Each cell or sleeping room in the prison is designed and used to accommodate only one person."

The corrections heads emphasize

they are taking their position "not out of sympathy for the offender or disregard for the threat that criminal behavior poses to Canadians. It is a position that stems from a concern for the most appropriate and effective use of resources."

It cost \$47,000 a year to keep a man in maximum security confinement in 1981-82. In provincial jails, for convicts serving sentences of less than two years, the per-prisoner cost was \$24,500.

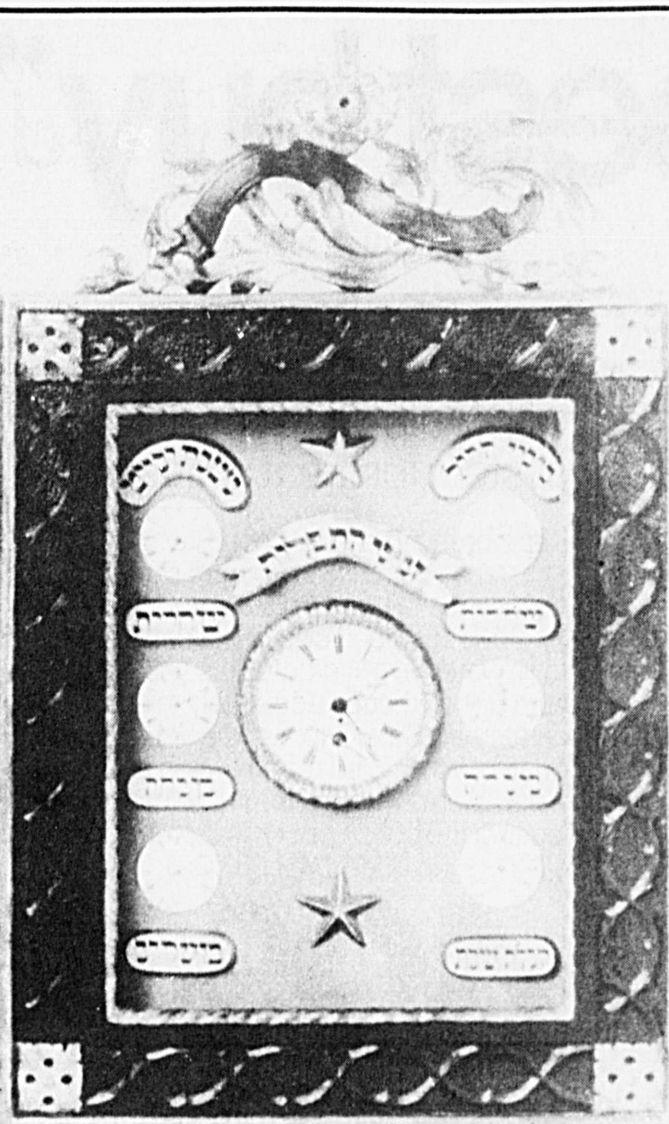
The corrections heads point out that more than two-thirds of all Canadians convicted of indictable offences in 1980 were incarcerated, and that rate since has increased.

But, they add, "most of these offences were non-violent property crimes that can be more economically responded to, utilizing restitution and community service programs."

Canada, the report notes, has an incarceration rate of about half that in the United States. But, it adds, the U.S. has about five times the rate of violent offences.

The corrections heads recommend:

- that courts not impose a sentence of imprisonment unless the offender has committed a serious crime endangering the life or personal security of another;
- that courts not use imprisonment as a means of denouncing criminal conduct — to make a statement about a trend; and
- that in property matters, courts impose a prison term only when the offender has refused to pay a fine.



This synagogue clock is one of the treasures on display.

SAVED BY NAZIS

Jewish art on tour

WASHINGTON (AP) — To museum curator Hana Volavkova, the task she was given by the Nazi Germans during the Second World Wars was like the biblical Noah's. She cataloged their collected artifacts of Jewish civilization for a gloating Museum of the Extinct Race.

When then-Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler's armies seized the Jewish Museum of Prague, its eight Jewish curators were kept at work rather than sent to the death camps. The Nazis wanted exhibits to ridicule the Jews and to prove that they were an inferior people.

So the curators spent the war years assembling relics of Jewish life — from prayer scrolls to kitchen utensils — seized from 153 Jewish communities in the regions of Czechoslovakia known as Bohemia and Moravia.

The Jews went to the death camps, and their possessions went to the museum.

After 15 years of negotiations, the Czechoslovak government has agreed to allow about 350 of those objects to go on display outside of Prague for the first time.

The exhibition, arranged by the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibitions Service, will open in Washington and visit Miami Beach, Fla., New York, San Diego, Calif., Detroit and Hartford, Conn. in a 22-month tour.

Project director Anna Cohn told a news conference this week that it was a macabre twist that the Nazis became the overseers of one of the world's greatest collections of Judaica.

She said the project began in 1940 with Hitler's order for the creation of a centre of Nazi doctrine and education and Nazi officer Alfred Rosenberg's plan to confiscate Jewish libraries, archives, religious artifacts and personal property.

Soon, trainloads of Jewish artifacts started arriving at the Prague museum. Only two curators survived. In conversation with American curators, one, Hana Volavkova, now 92, likened her task to Noah's and said she viewed the work as a form of spiritual resistance.

The objects that will come to the United States date from the 16th century. The oldest is a banner carried in 1514 by a Jew who claimed to be the long-awaited Messiah.

The display includes richly woven textiles of silk, brocade and velvet; finely wrought objects of silver and gold; stately portraits and other paintings; objects used in Jewish worship, daily life and on the Sabbath; and medieval manuscripts in Hebrew.

The display will be shown at the Smithsonian's National Museum of History from Nov. 9 to Dec. 31, then go to the Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 21-March 18, 1984; Jewish Museum in New York, April 15-Aug. 26, 1984; San Diego, Calif., Museum of Art, Sept. 22-Nov. 11, 1984; to a site still to be announced Dec. 15, 1984-Feb. 10, 1985; Detroit Institute of Arts, March 12-May 5, 1985; and Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Conn., June 3-July 29, 1985.

RANDOM NOTES from POLYNE BEONE

BOWIE BASH MAKES UP FOR GIG

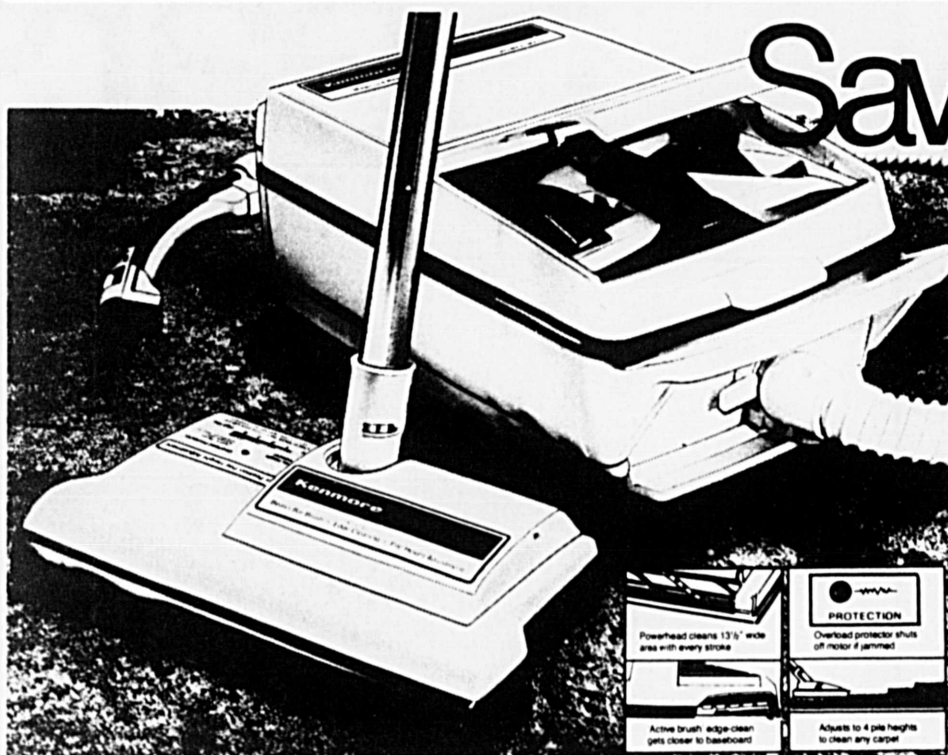
David Bowie. God bless him, knows how to throw a party. Indeed, once the festivities kicked off at New York's Japanese eatery Cafe Seiyoken, it hardly mattered that the singer's Madison Square Garden shows last month were letdowns, full of flashy theatrics but short on impassioned music. Among those snacking on raw fish and belting saki at the post-concert bash were Keith Richards, accompanied by his fiancée, Patti Hansen, his son by Anita Pallenberg, Marlon Richards, and his long-lost father, Herbert; a straight-from-rehearsal Talking Heads, still clutching their set lists and predicting great things for their current tour; Mike Nichols, huddling with ex- "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels; Grace Jones, who crashed the men's room; a label-shopping Bebe Buell and her producer, Rick Derringer; Bill Squier; and that noted Bowie buff, Raquel Welch. The party's dapper host dined with his costar in The Hunger, Susan Sarandon, who was last seen getting soaked with Richard Gere at the rained-out Diana Ross concert. Mick Jagger was, alas, a no-show — but he looked a tad tipsy at the backstage reception.

ELVIS' DREAMY DUEL

When Elvis Costello duetted with George Jones two years back, he said it was a dream come true. But Costello's vocalizing with Tony Bennett for an NBC Enterprises show at New York's Red Parrot disco last month was more like a nightmare. Backed by a barely there Count Basie and his band, Costello performed a touching, if nearly inaudible, version of Li'l Darlin'. Even that performance, though, outstripped the Bennett-Costello rendition of It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing). Elvis, whose bandleader father, Ross McManus, still plays swing songs for a living, appeared either not to know the words — mid-song, a cue card was rushed to the front — or not to care. Even so, Bennett was unfazed. "I was knocked out by him," he said of Costello. "He's a real popular boy."

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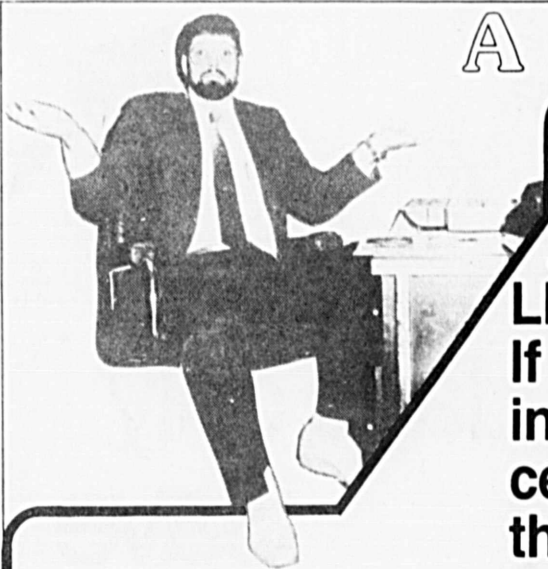
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