

Prosperity & Politics in Postwar Canada



key themes • people • events



SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD
1827-91



ALEXANDER MACKENZIE
1814-76



SIR JOHN ABBOTT
1811-82



SIR JOHN THOMPSON
1851-94



SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL
1854-98



SIR CHARLES TUPPER
1857-1915



SIR WILFRID LAURIER
1855-1913



SIR ROBERT L. BORDEN
1869-1945



ARTHUR MEIGHEN
1874-1948



W. L. MACKENZIE KING
1874-1957



R. B. BENNETT
1870-1948



LOUIS B. ST. LAURENT
1882-1959



JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER
1910-1979



LESTER B. PEARSON
1917-1972

Peace Time Economy

- change from war economy controlled by federal government to control by private industries
- generous tax breaks given to produce consumer goods or invest in new plants
- crown corporations auctioned off



Paying for Social Programs

- Canadians grew accustomed to social programs as unemployment insurance and family allowance
- to provide the money provinces would have to transfer taxation powers to federal government
- equalization payments or transfer payments would transfer to the poorer provinces money collected from the richer ones



Rich Resource and New Industries

- economic boom from new industries
- some as plastic and pesticides were the result of war time inventions
- many industries developed natural resources as metals, other minerals, petroleum
- resulted in boom towns on the frontier
- more than half the nations industries and 99% of automobile industry located in Ontario

Megaprojects

- in 1950- 1970 the Trans Canada Highway runs from St. John's to Victoria
- 1954 - 1959 St Lawrence Seaway links Great Lakes to the Atlantic
- Trans Canada Pipeline brought natural gas from Alberta to Central Canada



American Investment

- United States invests heavily in resource industries as oil, uranium and iron ore
- in 1956 US owned 50% of manufacturing
- by 1967 foreign ownership of oil resources had risen to 88%
- US companies opened branch plants in Canada to avoid tariffs
- Canada receives jobs and access to US technology but profits are sent back to the US

Canadian Industrialists



- H.R. MacMillan - West Coast forest industries



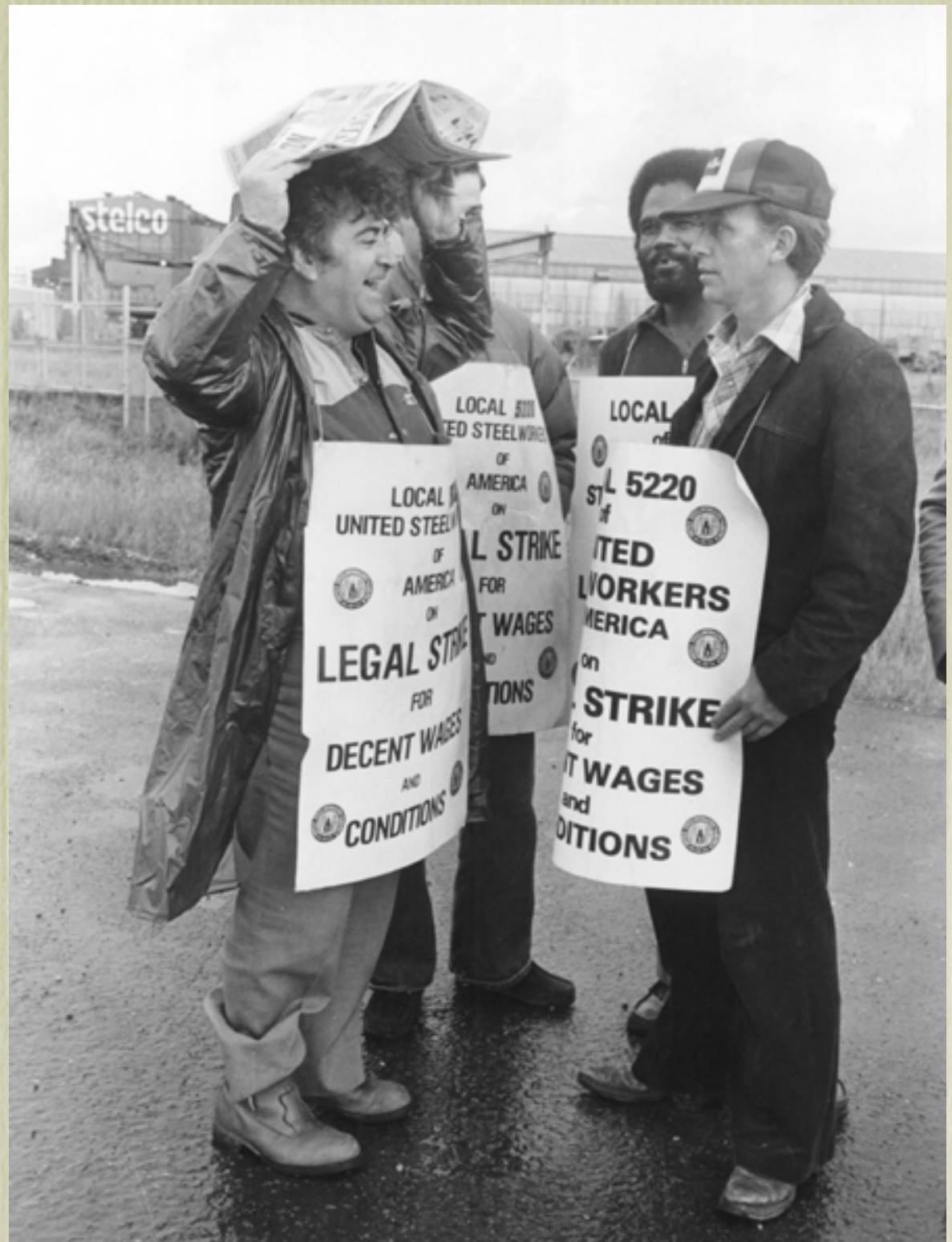
- K.C. Irving - New Brunswick gas stations to newspapers



- E.P. Taylor and Bronfman family in central Canada control production of consumer goods and stores

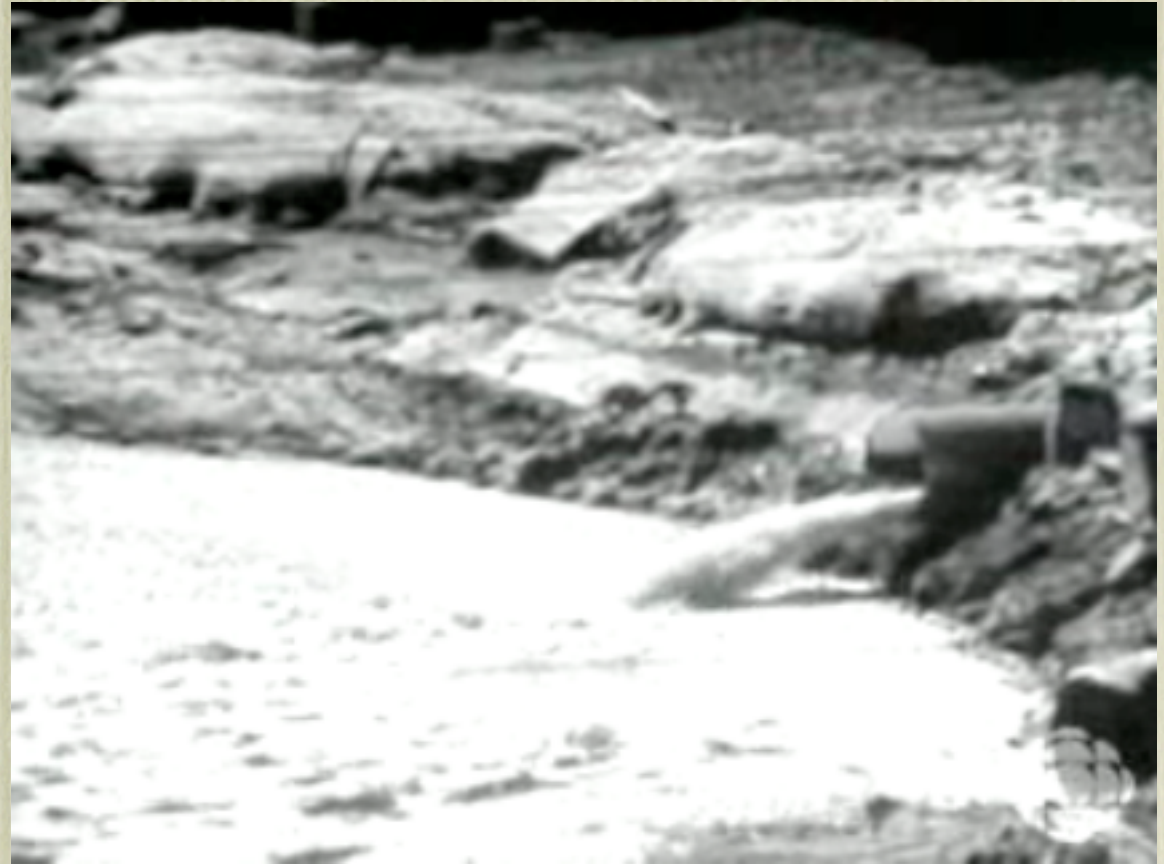
Trade Unions

- strikes resulted in higher wages, five day work week, and 40 hour week
- resulted in more leisure time and money to enjoy it



Working Poor

- recent immigrants and poor stuck in low paying jobs
- women were paid less for equal work
- First Nations suffered from environmental damage caused by resource industries



<http://archives.cbc.ca/environment/pollution/topics/1178/>

Nation Expands

- Newfoundland under Joey Smallwood hold a referendum and join Canada in June 1948



Changing Face of Politics

- Louis St. Laurent replaces Mackenzie King as PM
- media is used to build public image as “uncle” Louis



Dief vs Mike



- from 1957 to 1967 Diefenbaker and Pearson dominate politics as prime minister and leader of the opposition

