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## Letter from Canada

A recent international edition of *Time* magazine had a feature article on the Western Provinces of Canada. The two page cover featured a painting of our premier of British Columbia and the story of our prosperity boom. I mention this so the readers of this letter will recognize the part of our large country in which I reside.

It is from this province that a vocal portion of the medical and legal professions have been able to push through endorsements of legalized abortion and sterilization; however, so far, the only change effected in the law was the abolition of the law against the sale and distribution of contraceptives. This, of course, was not opposed.

This aggressive medical climate has kept the local members of the Catholic Physicians' Guild active. An excellent article by one of our members, Dr. Colin Harrison, appeared in the *Canadian Medical Journal*, August 20, 1966, "On The Futility of Legalizing Abortion." We have joined with other Christian physicians in studying and presenting papers on the Christian aspects of medicine. We will be holding a joint three day session in which our wives will participate.

Labour is well organized in British Columbia but does not seem to be as well disciplined. Union leaders have been striking, demanding, and getting wage hikes from 30% to 50% in this past year, the prece-

dent having been set by national unions. However, their demands, no matter how unreasonable, are supported by prolonged crippling strikes affecting the whole community. These are not strikes to protest an injustice but weapons recognized as being lawful although used without any restraint or conscience. Every strike ends with settlement in favour of the union — though the gain is often negated by the lost wages — so everyone loses.

Wild-cat strikes and refusal to return to work when ordered by labour leaders and the courts have demonstrated the lack of control of labour leaders over the workers (many of whom are not union members). Contempt of court jail sentences for refusal to obey the court injunction have led to organized worker protest. The labour movement has apparently acted so irresponsibly that it will be the cause of its own ruin. Prohibitive legislation has already been enacted in Saskatchewan and more will follow if this pattern continues. Meanwhile, after waiting three years, the physicians have managed to negotiate a fee schedule increase of 9.2% over a two year period.

There has been some publicity regarding the number of Americans who are migrating to Canada to avoid service in the Viet Nam war. There is a problem of draft dodging for selfish reasons but there is also the delicate one of conscience. This war is not like past wars. I am sure

many Canadians are happy not to be in the predicament of deciding by action their moral judgment of this war.

1967 is the 100th Birthday of Confederation in Canada. Throughout the country centennial projects of a useful and lasting type have been initiated. Expo '67, in Montreal, is the place to visit this year. We expect the years of planning that preceded its construction will

ensure this to be a wonderful experience for those who can attend. I hope many of the doctors and others who read this letter will accept this as an invitation to come to Canada and help us celebrate our 100th Birthday.

J. BERNARD COSTELLO, M.D.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

November, 1966

## Are You Moving?

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FEBRUARY, 1967