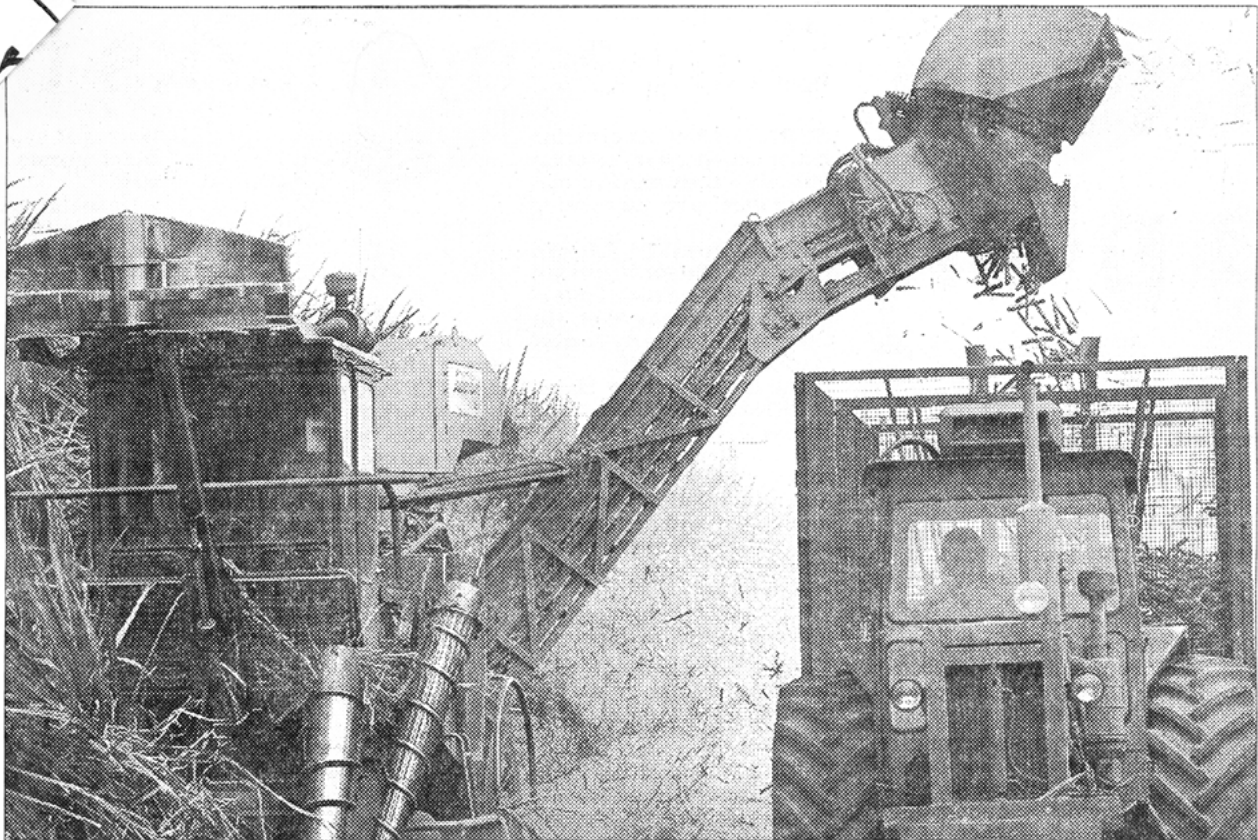


## Business



SWEET success . . . Australia's cane harvest has so far escaped the worst effects of the drought.

AUSTRALIA'S sugar industry is heading for new production peaks with record cane availability, quicker crushing and higher sugar content.

Australian Sugar Milling Council general manager John Desmarchelier said Queensland sugar mills were putting in an "outstanding performance" in

## Sugar at peak

this year's cane crushing season.

Millers were 4.4 million tonnes ahead of the same time last year and sugar content was also higher.

Mr Desmarchelier said Australia's cane harvest

had so far escaped the worst effects of the drought.

Prices were firm with the spot price for sugar for the first eight months of 1994 an average of US11.44¢ a pound — ahead of the 1993

average of US10.03¢ a pound.

Despite the disruption caused by heavy rains in the far north, each of the four Queensland producing regions (Far North, Herbert-Burdekin, Central and South) and New South Wales were ahead of last year's crushing performance.