

Progressive Conservative Party leader resigns

Progressive Conservative Party leader Joe Clark has stepped down as leader of the Opposition following the party's biennial meeting held in Winnipeg, January 28-29.

Erik Nielsen, the member of Parliament for Yukon, was named interim leader of the Opposition pending a leadership convention. Mr. Clark has also resigned as

party leader but a decision as to when his resignation will take effect will be made by the Conservative party's national executive at a later date. It has been suggested that Mr. Clark may stay on as leader to meet certain legal and constitutional duties such as the signing of nominations, appointing fundraisers and pro-

Nova Scotia's microelectronics institute making waves

A new single side band radio has been designed that can store frequencies, operate on any one of those frequencies over great distances, and match the antenna with the chosen frequency. It can even transmit teletype messages.

Design for portions of this radio is only one of the many ventures of the Applied Microelectronics Institute in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The institute, under the directorship of Dr. Douglas Pincock, is a self-funding, non-profit corporation bringing together the research and development expertise of its three founding institutions, the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS), Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation Corporation.

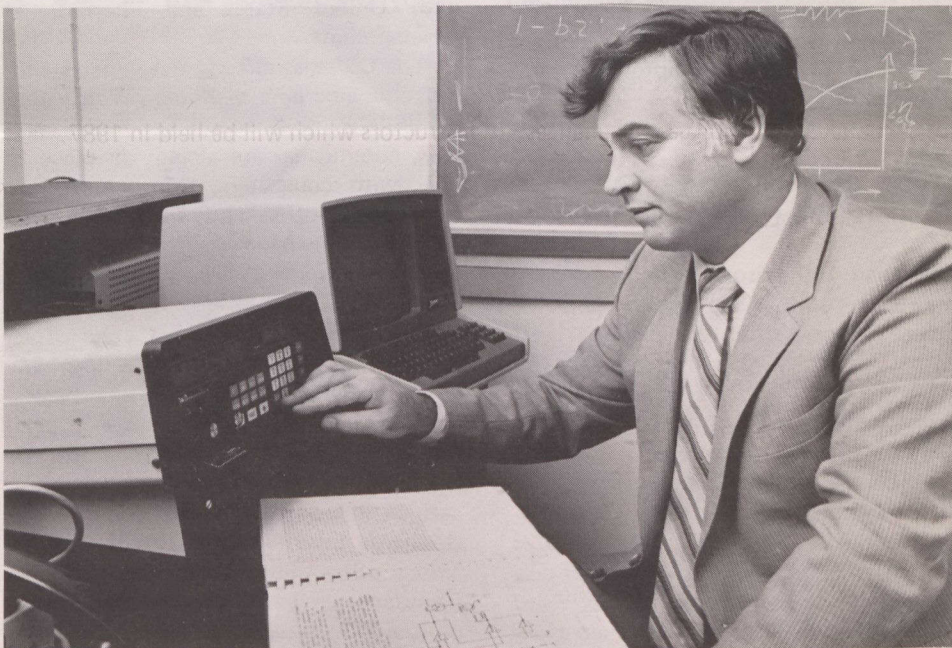
Much of the work under way at AMI is marine-oriented. For example, an underwater information acquisition and control system eliminates the need for heavy, expensive cables. The system pro-

vides for accurate surface monitoring of data from underwater sensors by means of a single wire. AMI has also developed techniques for the construction of small transmitters to attach to free swimming fish to monitor physiological and environmental data.

AMI's research and development capabilities also include medical electronics. The large medical research establishment in Halifax has encouraged AMI to develop commercially exploitable medical instruments, such as a system for measuring blood flow using a miniature fibre optic catheter.

The Applied Microelectronics Institute opened in September of 1981. It has no plans to market its designs.

According to Dr. Pincock, the institute's chief aim is to become a "centre of excellence" in the microelectronics field, leaving the marketing of its products to the business sector.



Dr. Douglas Pincock, director of Nova Scotia's Applied Microelectronics Institute with AMI's single side band radio.

cessing paperwork required under the Election Expenses Act. During the meeting in Winnipeg, 66 per cent of delegates voted against a leadership convention almost the same percentage of support Mr. Clark received in 1981.

Asked on a secret ballot: "Do you wish to have a leadership convention?", 1 067 said "no" and 795 said "yes". Mr. Clark had given a commitment to his caucus last year that he would submit himself to a leadership review if he failed to improve his support from that of the 1981 meeting. He said that he needed the mandate to enforce party discipline — especially within his caucus.

Following the balloting, Mr. Clark told delegates: "I asked for a clear mandate... that mandate is not clear enough to enforce the kind of discipline and to achieve the kind of unity this party requires." Mr. Clark indicated to the delegates that he intends once again to seek the party leadership.

Firm seeks world market for its water bombers

An Ontario company is planning improvements to its water bombers that will make them competitive in world markets.

Avalon Aviation Limited of Parry Sound owns a fleet of eight *Canso* amphibians converted to water bombers and operates them under contract to a number of governments for fighting forest fires.

The *Canso*, a Second World War patrol plane also known as the *PBY* and the *Catalina*, has long been a favourite water bomber because of its size and range.

Bruce Powell, president of Avalon, said the company plans to begin equipping the twin-engine *Canso* with turbo-prop engines, which would give the plane a larger water load capacity and more speed. A rebuilt *Turbo Canso* will carry a price tag of about \$1 million, not including development costs of about \$2.5 million.

The *Turbo Canso* should be a ready seller in world markets, which are poised to take off when economic conditions improve, he said. He identified Argentina, Venezuela, Chile and the Scandinavian countries as potential customers.

About 50 *Canso* water bombers with conventional engines are in firefighting service in Canada and elsewhere, converted by Field Aviation Company Limited of Toronto. Avalon will carry out its conversions under Field patents.