

question of a special unit trained to deal with hostage-taking and other crises is under way, with the establishment of institutional emergency response teams. The use of police forces is also to be decided by the director when required.

Mr. Fox stated, in the conclusion of his response, that he intended to work

closely with the Parliamentary subcommittee, and that he believed the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs would have "adequate opportunities" to monitor progress on implementation of the recommendations when it considered the estimates.

In accepting the principles contained

in the foregoing, and other recommendations, the Minister emphasized they could not all be implemented at once throughout the system. Several required legislative, regulatory or policy changes. He stressed, however, that he would implement the recommendations "with all reasonable speed".

News briefs

Direct time loss from work stoppages due to strikes and lockouts in 1976 amounted to 11,609,890 man-days, according to revised final figures in a Labour Canada report issued recently. This revised figure is higher than the preliminary figure previously issued, and is the highest annual figure for man-days lost ever recorded. Even so, it represents only 0.55 per cent of total working time.

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Alastair Gillespie, recently recommended to the Governor in Council that charges applicable to exports of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons be reduced by \$1 a barrel to the following levels, effective August 1: for light crude oils and condensate \$4.60 a barrel; for Lloydminster, Viking-Kinsella and Wainwright-type blends \$2.90 a barrel, and for other designated heavy oils \$3.35 a barrel. The Minister stated that the decrease reflected the increase of \$1 a barrel in the wellhead price of Canadian crude oils, which took effect on July 1.

The appointment of Jean-Marie Déry as Ambassador to Egypt was one of nine diplomatic appointments announced by the Department of External Affairs on August 11. Other appointments are: Jean Touchette Ambassador to Tunisia; Pierre Dumas Ambassador to Switzerland; Jacques Dupuis Ambassador to Spain;

Harry Horne as Consul General in San Francisco; Andrew Ross as Consul General in Atlanta; Lawrence A.H. Smith as Minister responsible for Economic Affairs in Washington; Kenneth Taylor as Ambassador to Iran and concurrently to Bahrein, Qatar and United Arab Emirates; William Warden as High Commissioner to Hong Kong.

Two million dollars is being provided by Canada for drought relief in Haiti. The Haitian Red Cross Society was given \$500,000 for immediate food-aid requirements, while the balance of \$1.5 million was provided under a special program operated by the Canadian International Development Agency. Additional food aid along with seed-grains, health, water, warehousing and other requirements has also been distributed under the program.

Governor-General Jules Léger, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, is meeting members of the Order of Canada in several provinces this year to mark the tenth anniversary of the Order. Mr. Léger met members in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in June and July; on August 18, he and his wife gave a reception for members at Government House, in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Bishop Strachan Girls' Choir and the George Brown College Orchestra, both from Toronto, took part in the International Festival of Youth Orchestras and Performing Arts, held in Scotland from August 6-17 and in England from August 19-21.

Maxwell F. Yalden, formerly Deputy Minister of Communications since 1973, has been named the new Commissioner of Official Languages. He replaces Keith Spicer. Mr. Yalden, a former diplomat, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1956 and was posted to Moscow two years later. After serving on the Canadian delegation to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, and later with the Department's Disarmament Division

in Ottawa, he moved to the Canadian Embassy in Paris, before returning to Ottawa as Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. In 1969 he was appointed to the Secretary of State Department as Assistant Under-Secretary in charge of bilingualism development and education programs.

A Gallup poll shows that support for the Government's wage-and-price-control policy has risen to 58 per cent. The figure, released August 10, is the same as the high point recorded in April last year, before support for the anti-inflation policy began its decline to a low point of 44 per cent last autumn.

A 2.1 per cent rise in food prices during July — the largest monthly increase in two years — pushed the cost of living higher in July by 0.9 per cent. The number of unemployed was 8.1 per cent.

This is the summer of the kilometre in Canada. By September, most of the road signs in the country will be changed from miles per hour to kilometres per hour. It's the next step in Canada's gradual conversion to metric measurement which began in 1971 and should be completed by 1980. The road sign changeover will see 30 mph replaced by 50 km/h and 60 mph by 100 km/h. School zone signs will dictate a 25 km/h speed limit, instead of the present 20 mph. The speeds will be about the same as they are now only the symbols will be different.

Gordon Fairweather, long-time Conservative MP and crusader for civil liberties, is quitting his Commons seat to accept a Liberal government appointment as head of the new Canadian Human Rights Commission. Parliament passed legislation in July to set up the commission, which will act as the national counterpart to similar provincial bodies to deal with charges of discrimination in areas of sex, marital status and physical handicap.

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