

challenge facing industry as well as government," Mr. Train responded. He complimented the Canadian Parliament on the passage of such important and necessary legislation. During the discussion, Mr. Marchand and Mr. Train focused their attention particularly on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), persistent chemicals found in varying concentrations in the bodies of fish and fish-eating birds in and about the Great Lakes and elsewhere.

Views were exchanged on the possible effects on both countries of air pollution drifting over long distances, and it was agreed that their respective experts should co-operate in determining the severity of this problem.

Views were exchanged on the Canadian and U.S. air-pollution acts, and in particular on problems such as sulphur emissions.

#### Early co-operation essential

Mr. Marchand and Mr. Train stressed the importance of co-operation between Canadian and United States scientists at an early stage in environmental research efforts. Mr. Train commented that, "while a considerable amount of scientist-to-scientist contact takes place already, the importance of ensuring that our respective research resources are utilized to maximum advantage warrants specific instructions from Minister Marchand and myself to make a greater effort to benefit from each other's knowledge".

The two negotiators ended their meeting with a review of a number of current transboundary environmental issues and expressed general satisfaction with the way they were being handled. They were particularly pleased that the International Joint Commission was progressing in its study of the possible effects in Canada of the Garrison Diversion Project. Both agreed that the Commission's recommendations would be of considerable assistance to the two governments in solving this problem.

Mr. Marchand and Mr. Train also expressed satisfaction over the co-operative steps taken by their governments and the International Joint Commission to meet both transboundary air-emission and water-use questions posed by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation's Poplar River Project. They noted that agreement had been reached in March

on the need for a formal mechanism to address water-quality questions.

Mr. Marchand and Mr. Train feel that Canada-United States discussions of a proposed coal-mine in British Columbia near the Flathead River, which flows into Montana, might well serve as a model of consultation on projects with possible transboundary environmental effects.

In addition to officials from his own Agency, Mr. Train was accompanied in the talks by United States Ambassador Thomas Enders and members of his staff. Mr. Marchand was accompanied by senior officials of his Department and of External Affairs, including an official from Canada's Embassy in Washington.

#### Manitoba's "friendly" licence plates

The Manitoba motor-vehicle licence plates regulations have changed a lot since the first plates, made of aluminum with white figures on blue background, were issued in 1911.

Before that date, aluminum registration seals were issued by the province. The vehicle-owner had to buy the number and use the provincial seal to affix it to a mounting plate, which also had to be bought.

From 1911 to 1918 the province issued a new licence plate each year, which varied in size and colour. Then, in 1919, a new plate was not issued and a date attachment was secured to the bottom of the 1918 plate.

By 1949, it was the practice to keep one set of plates for two years, with a validation strip added in the second year. Later, single sets of plates were issued for periods varying from five to seven years. When "Autopac" was introduced, insurance stickers replaced the validation strips, starting in 1972.

Manitoba issues more than 30 different types of licence plate according to the type of vehicle and its registration category. While most vehicles carry a pair of plates, some are required to carry only one.

There were 759,000 pairs and 145,000 single plates ordered when the new 1976 plates were issued. These plates are reflective, have sufficient room for renewal decals, and use the three-letter/three-numeral combination which is prevalent in North America.

The "Friendly Manitoba" slogan used on the plates has been used by the province's tourism branch for a number of years. The 1976 plates mark the first time the licence plate theme and a tourist branch advertising theme have been co-ordinated.

#### New method of gold recovery

The discovery of a new method of recovering gold from carbonaceous gold ore could lead to the exploitation of about four million tons of Canadian ore that has never been mined before. Dusan Raicevic and Robert Bruce, scientists at the Canada Centre for Minerals and Energy Technology, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, have developed a simple flotation-cyanidation method for recovering 94 per cent of the gold from ore in which graphite and gold are finely disseminated.

In the flotation process, the graphite becomes attached to chemically-induced bubbles and is floated off in a froth using methyl isobutyl carbino (MICB), while the gold and other minerals sink to the bottom of a trough. The gold-bearing pyrite is then floated, roasted at 500 degrees centigrade for one hour, following which the gold is dissolved in a cyanide solution.

The procedure can be easily incorporated into a conventional gold-milling operation. Only a separate grinding unit and a graphite flotation unit are needed. After capital outlay, the only additional cost of treating carbonaceous ore is for the chemical reagent MIBC — about two cents a ton of ore.

#### Operation lifestyle — an invitation to physical fitness

Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde recently introduced what he calls the "Fit-Kit", which, he says, enables Canadians to estimate how fit they are and assists them in the choice of physical activities appropriate to age, occupation, lifestyle preferences and personal capabilities.

"I want to emphasize at this point the fact that the Fit-Kit is only one element of Operation Lifestyle — which is a determined effort by the Govern-