

Bilingual air traffic control service in Quebec

Further expansion of Canada's two official languages in the air traffic control system of Quebec was recommended in the final report of a commission of inquiry recently released by Transport Canada.

The three commissioners of the inquiry were Justice Julien Chouinard, of the Appeal Court of Quebec; Justice W.R. Sinclair, of the Supreme Court of Alberta; and Justice D.V. Heald, of the Federal Court of Canada.

Transport Minister Don Mazankowski said that the unanimous recommendations of the commission had been accepted by the Government, and that a team had been set up to implement the recommendations in consultation with the interested aviation associations.

Two-stage implementation

The 300-page report recommends that bilingual air traffic control services be extended in Quebec in two stages. The first involves the Montreal flight information region and calls for bilingual IFR communications at the Montreal area control centre and the Quebec terminal control unit as well as bilingual VFR communications at Dorval and Mirabel airport control towers. This phase is expected to be complete in early 1980.

Stage two provides for the implementation of bilingual IFR air traffic services in virtually the rest of Quebec by expanding the Montreal flight information region. This phase will be completed as soon as a sufficient number of controllers are trained and certified and the electronic equipment required is installed.

The Transport Minister said the report was a "most comprehensive report, painstaking in detail yet obviously concerned with safety in civil aviation and the justifiable concerns of all the parties, groups and associations affected by the commission's findings".

The commissioners linked their major recommendations to a number of provisions, including training of bilingual controllers, broader distribution of lexicons for pilots, aviation notices on expansion of bilingual services, and specialized publications in both official languages.

During the course of the inquiry the commissioners interviewed expert wit-

nesses, examined the results of simulation studies conducted by Transport Canada, and received submissions from experts who visited air traffic control systems in Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Rome, Geneva, Frankfurt, Paris and Eurocontrol in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Copies of the report are available from: Transport Canada, Public Affairs, 21st floor, Tower C, Place de Ville Ottawa, K1A 0N5.

Electricity production increases

Electricity production in Canada rose in 1978 based on increased exports to the United States and a rise in Canadian consumption, according to a report by the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Electric Power in Canada, an annual survey of Canadian power development indicated that Canadian electricity production increased to 335,654 gigawatt hours (GWh) last year, while Canadian consumption rose 5.5 per cent during the same period. (A gigawatt hour equals 1 million kilowatt hours.)

The report pointed out the latest increase was below the growth rate of 6.5 per cent from that of 1960-1978 and noted the annual growth rate in electricity demand had averaged only 4.7 per cent since 1973.

Rate of growth in demand for all energy has declined during the past six years owing to sharp increases in the world price of oil, conservation and slower economic growth.

A long-standing trend to supply an increasing proportion of total energy needs in the form of electricity continued in 1978, according to the survey. Demand for electric power increased at a faster pace than the growth rate recorded for all forms of energy at 3.5 per cent for 1978, the latest year for which statistics are available.

Hydro power accounted for 69.7 per cent of all generation; thermal, 21.5 per cent and nuclear, 8.8 per cent. Output from nuclear plants was up 18.4 per cent and provided nearly 29 per cent of all generation in Ontario, the report said.

Total installed generating capacity was 74,568 megawatts (MW) at the close of 1978, up 4,040 MW or 5.7 per cent from that of a year earlier. Preliminary figures

showed net additions of 1,564 MW hydro, 1,676 MW conventional thermal and 800 MW nuclear.

Canada exported 21,592 GWh of electricity to the United States and imported 2,099 GWh in 1978 for a 14 per cent increase in net exports to 19,490 GWh, accounting for 5.8 per cent of net generation by Canada during the year. Exports rose 152 per cent from Quebec and 20 per cent from Ontario. Quebec's exports were facilitated by additional interconnection capacity with New York State.

The report details regulation of electric utilities in Canada. Other sections cover the cost and pricing of electricity, capital investment, research and development, and the forecasting of demand and electricity substitution.

The bilingual report is free. Copies may be obtained from: Electrical Section, Energy Policy Sector, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E4.

Housing prices increase

In July, new houses cost 3.4 per cent more than they did in July 1978, Statistics Canada reported.

In its regular monthly survey of price movements in the housing market, the federal agency said the price of a house alone increased by 2.7 per cent and the cost of accompanying land went up by 5 per cent during the year ending July 31. During the month of July the cost of a new house — including both the home and land — increased by 0.2 per cent.

This brought the federal agency's new house price index to 109.9. Since the index was set at 100 in 1971, the cost of a new house has increased by 9.9 per cent in the past eight years. The index is based on a combination of housing price figures for 22 major metropolitan areas.

There were marked differences in price movements among these cities. The largest price jump was in Windsor, where the cost increased by 21.1 per cent during the year. This was followed by Saskatoon with a 10.6 per cent increase.

Three cities — Toronto, Kitchener and Victoria — reported a slight drop in the cost of a new house.

Figures for other urban areas were: St. John's, up 3.3 per cent; Halifax, up 4 per cent; Montreal, up 5.1 per cent; Calgary, up 5.6 per cent; and Vancouver, up 0.7 per cent.