

## Courier companies transmit electronic mail

With the ever-increasing demand for faster communications, the *Globe and Mail* reports that electronically transmitted mail is considered by many as the way of the future.

Because the widespread introduction of electronic-mail services into offices has been hampered by the fact that gaining access to such a service normally requires an initial capital investment in equipment, courier companies across Canada are moving into electronic mail. The companies are in the business of delivering time-sensitive material, and they view electronic mail as an added service.

The trend in new electronic-mail ventures will appeal to a broad market by the extension of services to include individuals who lack the equipment to transmit or receive correspondence directly.

### Service in operation

Purolator Courier Limited of Toronto, a subsidiary of Purolator Courier Corp. of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, currently offers electronic transmission between four cities — Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary. Kingsway Courier, a subsidiary of the Kingsway group of companies, which in turn is part of Canada Steamship Lines Inc. of Montreal, expects to complete negotiations with a US-based facsimile company to provide the service in Canada.

These companies are offering facsimile transmission supplemented by pick up and delivery of all messages. Anything that can be photocopied can be sent by facsimile. As simple to operate as a copier, the facsimile machine transmits, over telephone lines, a black and white copy of what is printed on a sheet of paper.

If a lawyer in Toronto, for example, wants to send a document to a client in Calgary, he calls Purolator in Toronto, which picks it up. The document is taken to the company's facsimile centre where it is transmitted to its Calgary facsimile centre. At that end, a courier delivers the facsimile. The complete transaction takes about three hours and costs \$32.50 for five pages, compared with \$8.75 for an overnight letter.

Today's machines, which use digital rather than analog technology, transmit at speeds up to 20 seconds a page. The older machines took an average of three minutes, which made the time spent on long-distance phone lines costly.

Many companies operate an internal facsimile network. The courier companies are looking at professionals, such as lawyers, engineers and architects, as a

source of business as well as companies with their own machines that want to communicate with a company that does not have equipment.

In an effort to attract as many users as possible, Purolator and Telecom Canada have launched a market trial that will allow the 14 000 subscribers to Envoy 100, Telecom's electronic messaging service, to send messages to Purolator's facsimile machines. These will, in turn, be delivered to non-Envoy 100 subscribers by a Purolator courier.

If facsimile proves to be as popular as Purolator hopes, this service will be expanded next year to cover the 6 000 Canadian centres served by the company.

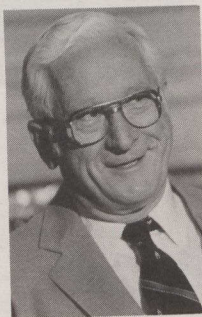
Canada Post Corp. has also started its own electronic transmission system. The corporation is adding courier pick up and delivery to its Intelpost facsimile operation in a number of major cities.

It is also extending its service to companies with compatible machines allowing them to transmit information to the Post Office's facsimile centre electronically. The corporation expects to derive 50 per cent of its facsimile volume from the installed base of an estimated 5 000 to 8 000 digital machines.

## Former House speaker appointed ambassador to Portugal

Cyril Lloyd Francis, the retiring Liberal speaker of the House of Commons, has been named as Canada's ambassador to Portugal.

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said the appointment of Mr. Francis, 64, follows the tradition of giving former speakers "an opportunity to serve Canada in other positions".



Lloyd Francis

Canapress

Mr. Francis' term as speaker ended November 5 when Parliament resumed sitting and John Bosley, the Conservatives' nominee for the new speaker, was elected by the members of Parliament. He succeeds Lucien Lamoureux as the ambassador. Mr. Lamoureux, 64, was speaker of the House from 1966 to 1974.

In a statement, Felipe Cabral, first secretary at the Portuguese embassy, said his country is pleased with the appointment. "The choice of the previous speaker of the

## Record iron-ore discovery

The largest ocean ore body ever found has been discovered on the Explorer Ridge, 200 kilometres west of Vancouver Island.

Geologists aboard *Pandora II*, a Department of Fisheries' research ship, found the rich deposits on the third mission to the ridge which had been discovered in February this year. Scientists using the three-man submarine *Pisces IV*, located the sulphide deposits created by vents of hot water percolating up from volcanic chambers under a fault line on the ocean floor.

Stephen Scott, a University of Toronto geologist and chief scientist on the research cruise, said the brilliant red-and-orange deposits contain an estimated 1.5 million tonnes of copper and zinc-rich sulphide ore. He said three of the 17 ore deposits discovered are more than 150 metres across and at least seven metres thick.

"This is by far the largest deposit ever seen on any ridge and it is definitely in Canadian waters," said Professor Scott. "The ore is dense, just like the ores found around Timmins in northern Ontario," he said.

There may be some difficulties mining the ore in the immediate future, however, as the ore deposits are in very rough terrain and covered by water ranging in depth from 1 800 to 1 950 metres.

House, the second time such a high-ranking figure in Canadian public life serves as ambassador to Portugal, stresses the importance of the relationship between the two countries," he said.

Mr. Francis was born in Ottawa. He has an M.A. from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1963 after being deputy mayor of the city of Ottawa from 1961 to 1963, Mr. Francis was re-elected as a member of Parliament in 1968, 1974, and 1980. He was appointed chief government whip in 1970, parliamentary secretary to the minister of veterans affairs in 1972, and parliamentary secretary to the president of the Treasury Board in 1974. He was a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in New York in 1967 and again in 1974.

In 1980, Mr. Francis was appointed deputy speaker and chairman of Committees of the Whole before accepting his most recent appointment as speaker of the House of Commons in 1984.