

## Nepean firm helps Internal Revenue Service keep secrets

A small Ottawa Valley high-technology company is helping the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) make sure only authorized individuals have access to income tax returns.

Systems Interface Ltd. of Nepean, near Ottawa, has just closed a deal with the IRS and Four-Phase Systems Inc. of Cupertino, California to install computer security and job accounting systems at ten IRS locations across the US.

The Multifunction Security Control System will provide complete security on 168 mini-computers, monitoring up to 4 800 terminals. The terminals are to be used for entering 1 100 different tax forms, including business and personal income tax returns.

The security system verifies the authorization of each user to log on to the computer and have access to the various files. It also gives a complete accounting of all activities on the com-

puter system and records all software and hardware malfunctions.

System Interface president Sandy Foote said the contract will be worth about \$100 000 (US) for the three-year-old company, which specializes in designing software for security and communications applications. He said the deal helps Systems Interface establish its position in the US market, where more than half its business originates.

"This deal gives us more integrity. We've installed this system in a number of places in the United States with great success, and if the IRS wants to use it, that says to us and the rest of the market that it's a good system."

Systems Interface has installed the Multifunction Security Control System on more than 250 computer systems world-wide. Its clients include the Canadian government, the US Air Force and the US Defence Logistics Agency.



Systems Interface Ltd. president Sandy Foote (right) works on terminal.

## Well-known Ottawa area Member of Parliament dies

Conservative Member of Parliament Walter Baker, a key minister in Joe Clark's 1979 government, died recently, losing a five-month battle with cancer. He was 53.

Mr. Baker, who served as president of the Privy Council, house leader and Minister of National Revenue in the

1979 Clark government, entered politics in 1972, winning back for the Conservatives their traditional stronghold of Grenville-Carleton, now Nepean-Carleton, in Ottawa. It had been held by the Liberals for four years. He is survived by his wife and three children.

## Canada supports space agency

Canada will contribute at least \$10 million to the European Space Agency (ESA) during the next five years, and may become a full partner in the consortium by the end of the decade, according to *The Globe and Mail*.

Science Minister Donald Johnston will sign a deal early in 1984, reinforcing Canada's special status with the 11-country space agency. It will be the second five-year treaty Canada has negotiated since 1979, when the country first took a formal role in Europe's rapidly-growing space program.

For an annual "entry fee" of \$2 million, Canada has a say in the technological development remote sensing and telecommunications policies of the agency until 1989, Canada's space counsellor to the agency Jocelyn Ghent told a seminar sponsored by the Science Council of Canada.

Canada will also be privy to lucrative contracts for the development and manufacture of space hardware.

### Agency boards

Special participation in the program will allow Canada to have representatives on most agency boards, but not to be a full-fledged partner. Full partners — including France, West Germany, Britain and Italy — pay a proportion of their gross national product and are permanently committed to the agency. Canada must pay extra for specific projects in which it wishes to participate.

Jocelyn Ghent, who is based at the agency's Paris headquarters, said while the agency is still in the shadow of the massive North American Space Agency space program, it offers Canada several advantages.

Since 1979, the Canadian space industry has won almost \$40 million in contracts to supply equipment for the agency. Having its foot in the door has also helped Canada establish credibility in Europe as a "hi-tech" country, "not just as a people who chop down trees", said Ms. Ghent.

But the country will have to decide shortly whether or not to become a full member of the agency. "Because there is so much long-term planning. ESA needs to know if it will have a permanent commitment from Canada or not," she said.

Discussions on permanent membership will start in 1986.