

Abolition of death penalty — bill squeaks through

The bill to abolish capital punishment passed third reading in the House of Commons on July 14 by a margin of six votes. The count was 130 in favour and 124 against. The bill — C-84 — was approved by the Senate and given royal assent the following day. On second reading, June 22, an eight-vote majority — 133 to 125 — was recorded and the bill was sent to committee for possible amendment (see *Canada Weekly* dated July 7).

Solicitor-General Warren Allmand said the sentences of 11 men on death row would be commuted immediately. Three had been scheduled to hang on July 14. Capital punishment has been the penalty for the murder of policemen and prison guards on duty since 1967.

The new law will carry a prison sentence of 25 years for first degree murder, which is defined as premeditated, and ten years for second degree murder — not premeditated. A panel of three judges could recommend parole for a first degree murderer after ten years.

Immediately following the vote, Parliament rose for the summer after the longest session in history. It began on September 30, 1974.

Canada/W. Germany drone system co-operation

Canadair Limited of Montreal has been awarded a \$68.3-million contract to design, develop and test a prototype AN/USD-502 Surveillance Drone System.

The contract is part of a shared cost project between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany under which a sub-contract will be let by Canadair to Dornier GmbH of Friedrichshafen, FRC, for 50 per cent of the work. The development project is scheduled to be completed by August 31, 1981.

The AN/USD-502 is a surveillance and reconnaissance drone system designed to provide tactical intelligence in the forward battle areas and is an improved version of the AN/USD-501 (CL-89) Surveillance Drone System developed by Canadair a few years ago. The AN/USD-501 is in service with the

British and German armies and will shortly be in service with the Italian Army. The drone design emphasizes small size and high speed and uses a rocket motor for initial boost and launch and small turbo jet for sustained thrust. After launch from a truck, the drone accurately follows a pre-selected course, flies over and photographs the target area, then returns to a pre-determined recovery point, where it lands by parachute.

The drone, which is reusable, can be operated under adverse battle conditions and because of its speed and size, has a high probability of survival against strong enemy air defence.

Advantages of the new system include longer range, greater accuracy and higher speed.

Law students go North

Two students entering second year in the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, are operating a mobile legal advice and referral clinic in several isolated communities in northern B.C. this summer.

Bill Ehrcke and Jamie Dunn left Victoria May 13 in a 21-foot, rented, "mini" mobile home on a 750-mile trek to Dawson Creek.

For the next three-and-a-half months they plan to live in the mobile home, travelling a 500-mile circuit of small towns on a weekly basis, dispensing free legal advice.

The circuit includes Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Hudson's Hope.

The project, initiated by the Peace River Bar Association, is funded by grants of \$9,000 from the Legal Services Commission and \$3,000 from the Department of Labour.

Project supervisor Neil Gold, a professor with the Faculty of Law, explained that several communities in the North have no lawyers at all while others must seek legal services in centres 75 miles away.

A real need

"Lawyers in the North believe there is a real need for a service of this kind," said Gold. "One of the aims of our program here is to encourage people to practise law in the North."

Gold will visit the project on a

regular basis through the summer and the two students will work with members of the Peace River Bar Association. Their mobile clinic is equipped with a radio-phone to facilitate contact between students, clients and members of the association.

"We won't be acting as lawyers," explained Ehrcke. "We will be giving summary advice on problems within our competence, but any cases involving complications will be referred to the appropriate jurisdiction, such as the legal profession or social workers."

The students will receive \$750 a month in salaries and valuable exposure to law practices in the interior.

Film festival grants

Film festivals in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa have received grants from the Secretary of State Department totalling \$43,000 for 1976.

World renowned film figures and critics are expected to participate during the Festival of Festivals week proclaimed by Toronto mayor David Crombie. This will be a major international film festival in Toronto from October 18 to 24. A grant of \$19,500 has been awarded to the Festival of Festivals to assist in the program.

The best recent productions by both young international filmmakers and young Canadian filmmakers will be held in Montreal and Quebec in October and November. Le Festival international du Jeune Cinema du Québec will present films of original style, technique and subject matter with limited distribution. Screenings will be held simultaneously at the Outremont Cinema in Montreal and the Cartier Cinema in Quebec City. The Association québécoise des critiques de cinéma has received a grant of \$12,000 to organize the festival.

With the help of a \$4,000-grant, the Society of Canadian Cine Amateurs has organized the seventh Canadian International Amateur Film Festival being held in Ottawa July 21 to 24 in the National Archives Theatre and the Museum of Man Theatre.

Montreal will also host a film festival by Canadian students from September 22 to 26. The grant awarded to the Canadian Student Film Festival is \$7,500.