

Energy conservation film telecast

A half-hour National Film Board documentary which explores alternative solutions to the world's energy problems was recently telecast on the CBC network. *Tomorrow's Energy Today*, produced by the NFB for The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), is an optimistic record of a number of recent, successful experiments with renewable energy sources in the United States, Israel and Sweden.

The film visits a solar energy project in Crosbyton, Texas in the early stages of its development, another more established solar energy system in Tel Aviv and a solar pond on the shores of the Dead Sea. The film-makers travel to Sweden to look at the simple yet sophisticated conservation techniques which have made Vesteros one of the most energy-efficient, pollution-free cities in the world.

An Illinois farmer explains how, by converting animal waste to methane gas, he has become not only energy self-sufficient but has added a couple of lucrative new sources of income to his business. City officials in Lamar, Colorado describe their plans for a \$14 million manure-to-methane plant that they hope will significantly decrease the town's reliance on non-renewable fuels.

Tomorrow's Energy Today was written and directed by Ken McCready and produced by William Brind.

Nickel commemorative stamp

A commemorative stamp marking the hundredth anniversary of the discovery of nickel in Sudbury, Ontario, was issued August 12 at a ceremony during the city's nickel discovery centennial celebrations.

In announcing the new 32-cent stamp issue, André Ouellet, Minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation, noted that Sudbury owed its existence to the explosion of the nickel markets in the 1880s and had good reason to celebrate its past achievements as a world-renowned mining district. "But it also looks ahead to the next century with renewed optimism and tenacity," he said.

The history of mining in the Sudbury area began with the arrival of prospectors late in the nineteenth century. In 1883 Thomas Flanagan, a Canadian Pacific Railway blacksmith, gathered ore samples that turned out to be valuable copper sulphites. Tests revealed that Flanagan had not only discovered copper but also stumbled onto the world's biggest nickel deposit. Mining operations began in 1886.

In 1889, just when a method of refining nickel had been perfected, the market for nickel increased dramatically, assuring the profitability of the mines in the region. In that economic climate, Sudbury's expansion and prosperity for Ontario and Canada were guaranteed.

Research funds boosted

An additional \$31 million in energy research and development (R&D) funding, bringing the total federal commitment to \$333 million in 1983-84, has been announced by Energy Minister Jean Chrétien.

"Energy R&D provides essential technical support for Canada's energy policies, including the safe and timely development of our frontier oil and gas resources," said Mr. Chrétien. "The increased funds are also an important component in the federal government's recently announced technology development policy, a strategy aimed at enhancing the national technology base to sustain a vigorous economy in the 1990s."

The federal interdepartmental Panel on Energy R&D recommends and monitors the expenditure of additional resources to achieve the following objectives of our national energy policy: development of alternatives to gasoline; higher energy efficiency; development of new energy sources, and development of new technologies and processes to enhance oil production in the Western Basin and from new discoveries in Canada's frontiers.

The increase brings to \$154 million the annual budget co-ordinated by the Panel on Energy R&D and doubles the annual budget for federal R&D supporting the development of oil and gas from frontier regions.

Canada at Expo 84

Canada will participate in the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition (Expo 84 New Orleans). "The World of Rivers: Fresh Water as a Source of Life" is expected to attract 12 million visitors between May 12 and November 11, 1984.

Canada has been an active host and participant in expositions registered by the International Bureau of Expositions (IBE) in Paris, including Montreal's Expo 67, Expo 70 Osaka, Energy Expo 82 Knoxville, and the planned 1986 Vancouver World Exposition (Expo 86).

The theme of Expo 84 is of particular interest to Canada and is a growing issue of concern for many countries. Canada's participation will be co-ordinated by the World Exhibitions Program of the Department of External Affairs.

Aid to Palestinian refugees

Canada will provide a grant of \$2 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). The funds will be provided by the International Humanitarian Assistance Program of the Canadian International Development Agency and will bring the total contribution to UNRWA this year to \$6.2 million.

As the principal agency responsible for assisting Palestinian refugees, the thrust of UNRWA has changed through the years since it began operations in 1950 following the first Arab-Israeli conflict. While it continues to offer basic relief and welfare to destitute Palestinians and those affected by the conflict, UNRWA concentrates mainly on health and education programs.

As need in this sector progressively declined, UNRWA decided to cut its general program of food rations and concentrate most of its budget on the health and education sectors. During fiscal year 1982-83 Canada contributed \$8.1 million to UNRWA, just over half of which was in the form of food aid. The \$2 million grant represents additional funds in lieu of food aid and will be added to the \$4.2 million CIDA has already provided this year. The grant will be directed toward priority education projects: the replacement of physically run-down schools and classrooms, the provision of new schools and the provision of basic services such as sanitation, electricity and laboratories in schools where these do not exist.

