

## News briefs

**Michael Cassidy**, former professor of journalism at Carleton University, Ottawa, and MPP for Ottawa Centre, has been elected leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party. He succeeds Stephen Lewis, who announced his intention to resign after the provincial election in the spring of 1977.

**Canpotex Ltd.**, which negotiates sales abroad for Saskatchewan potash firms, has received an \$11-million contract to supply 200,000 short tons of potash to India. The sale will be financed by long-term loans by the Canadian International Development Agency.

**Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor**, George Porteous, died of heart failure February 7. He was 74. Until the Federal Government appoints a new Lieutenant Governor, the provincial Cabinet cannot pass any orders-in-council because, according to constitutional experts, there is no statutory provision for a temporary replacement.

**The Federal Government** plans to reduce the number of forms businessmen have to complete each year. If the equivalent of one form were eliminated for each of Canada's 350,000 businessmen, it is estimated, that about \$100 million a year would be saved.

**Plans to create 5,000 jobs** and divert several hundred million dollars worth of government purchases to provincial companies were contained in the Speech from the Throne opening a new session of the Nova Scotia Legislature on February 7.

**The number of unemployed** rose to 991,000 in January, but the seasonally-adjusted jobless rate fell to 8.3 per cent from 8.5 in December, reports Statistics Canada. In January 1977, the percentage was 7.5.

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**Leonard H. Newman**, one of Canada's foremost agricultural pioneers, died on January 16 in Ottawa at the age of 96. Dr. Newman, Agriculture Canada's Dominion Cerealists from 1923 to 1948, played a major role in the development of Canada's registered seed-production program. Late last year he was named to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

**Transport Minister Otto Lang** has announced an increase in the availability of advance-booking charter (ABC) flights. The Canadian Transport Commission will be asked to permit more interregional ABC flights than the 50 already authorized, to provide a full test of the demand for low-priced domestic air travel and of the impact of such flights on scheduled air services. A trial period of at least three years is foreseen. While Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Air have indicated that they plan to operate their 1978 quota of 25 ABC flights each, other licensed carriers will be allowed to apply for the right to operate additional domestic charter flights.

**The Quebec Government** says it will appeal a ruling by the Chief Justice of the Quebec Superior Court overturning a section of the province's language law that makes French the official language of the courts and the National Assembly.

**The Canadian National Millers Association** has announced the negotiation of a sale of 361,000 tonnes of flour to the Soviet Union.

**Quebec and Ottawa** have reached tentative agreement on a new immigration arrangement under which the province would have more power to select its own immigrants. The agreement would enable Quebec to establish its own points system for admitting immigrants.

**A bill permitting police** to open private mail (with a judge's warrant), on the grounds that it may contain illegal drugs or threaten national security, was introduced in the House of Commons by Solicitor General Jean-Jacques Blais on February 7.

**President and chief executive** of the Toronto-Dominion Bank told the Montefiore Club in Montreal recently that he was convinced company head offices in Quebec would be able to use English as the language of work. The Quebec provincial government will publish the regulations under its language bill next month.

**Export Development Corporation** (EDC) financing of \$3.6 million has supported the first sale of the de Havilland Dash-7 aircraft to Rocky Mountain Airways Inc., of Denver, Colorado, which will use the craft exclusively on the Denver-Aspen route in Colorado. The firm currently provides scheduled air-carrier service to ski communities in Colorado by means of six de Havilland *Twin Otter* planes. The building of the 50-passenger aircraft at the de Havilland plant in Downsview, Ontario, has created or maintained some 100 man-years of employment at de Havilland and seven major sub-suppliers across Canada.

**Gaetan Boucher** of Ste. Foy, Quebec, won all four races at the Davos international sprint speedskating competition in Switzerland last month, setting Canadian and track records while narrowly missing a world mark on his final event. His time for the 1,000 metres of one minute 15.56 seconds was just two-tenths of a second off the world record held by Evgeni Kulikov of the Soviet Union.

**Seventeen Alberta Indian bands** will benefit from more than \$7,793,000 in bonuses from the sale of the rights to oil and gas found on their reserves. Exploration and production rights are subject to the payment of royalties, of mineral rents and surface rents where surface is required. The bands remain owners of the land involved.

**Ford Motor Co. of Canada** says it will undertake a \$95-million conversion program at its engine plant in Windsor, Ontario, to produce smaller, more fuel-efficient engines.

**The Federal Government** intends to give tax credits to Canadian businesses in a two-year program designed to create as many as 50,000 new jobs in the first year. Legislation introduced in the House of Commons provides for a benefit of up to \$2 an hour, for a maximum of \$2,340 for each new employee over a nine-month period, to businesses that add employees to their payrolls in jobs that would not otherwise have been created. The program will cost the Federal Government about \$100 million a year in lost tax revenue. The legislation should be passed and the program in operation by March 31.