

News of the arts

Adult training in Nova Scotia

Employment and Immigration Canada will contribute about \$85 million over the next three years towards the cost of adult training programs administered by it and the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

"Close to \$13.5 million per year has been designated for spending on institutional training programs such as upgrading, apprenticeship, and skill courses," stated Carmen Moir, Deputy Minister of Education for the province.

"Over 9,000 Nova Scotians will benefit from this type of training in the coming 12 months," he added.

J.P. LeBlanc, Director General of Employment and Immigration Canada for the Nova Scotia Region commented, "In addition to this direct payment to the province, Employment and Immigration will be contributing over \$9.2 million per year in income support and training allowances."

Industrial on-the-job training programs will receive \$5.1 million in 1978-79 to assist employers with new employees or with the retraining of present staff. Approximately 5,200 workers in the primary industries and manufacturing sectors will be assisted this year.

"A further \$300,000 in 1978-79 will be used for improvements to existing training programs and the development of courses to meet our future labour market needs," Mr. Moir stated.

Cheap liquid fuel with wood base

Environment Minister Len Marchand said recently a consultants' study had concluded that methanol fuel could be produced from a combination of wood and natural gas for about 35 to 50 cents a gallon by the mid 1980s.

Noting that oil prices would probably be in the \$25-a-barrel range by the middle of the next decade, the minister said methanol production could by then have become a profitable enterprise.

The consultants' report, which will be released soon by Intergroup Consulting Economists (Winnipeg), does not represent Government policy.

"The potential role that forest biomass could play is seen by the consultant study to be very large. The volumes of residues that are either surplus to or unusable for

the fibre needs of conventional forest product plants are sufficient to support a major methanol industry. This would eventually be capable of producing over 11 billion gallons of methanol annually across Canada," said Mr. Marchand. He also noted that British Columbia could produce some 3.5 billion gallons of that annual total, creating an important new export for the province.

Consultants estimate that the costs of producing methanol from various materials are: from forest biomass alone — 50 to 65 cents a gallon; from coal — 45 to 55 cents a gallon; from forest biomass combined with natural gas — 35 to 50 cents a gallon.

Mr. Marchand noted that about three gallons of methanol were required to power a car over the distance covered by two gallons of gasoline. The most efficient and economical use of methanol would probably be in a gasoline-methanol fuel mixture, he said.

While methanol is only one of several options now being studied by the Federal Government as alternative liquid fuels, its technical properties "establish it as an interesting and possibly front-running contender".

Mr. Marchand warned that any development of the forest for energy production would have to be handled in a manner acceptable to environmentalists.

Adventure in Ottawa for 270 young Canadian citizens

Adventure in Citizenship, the twenty-eighth edition, began on May 15 when 270 senior high school students, selected and sponsored by Rotary Clubs across Canada, began a four-day visit to Ottawa.

Their "adventure" started with a welcome from Mayor Greenberg and Ron Merriam, president of the Rotary Club of Ottawa, in the Railway Committee Room on Parliament Hill, prior to a visit to the Commons.

The "exposure to the multitude of complex aspects that make Canada the nation it is today" continued with a speech from the Co-Chairman of the Task Force on Canadian Unity, Jean-Luc Pepin, who described the workings of the "tool of democracy".

In the afternoon, the students visited the Senate Chamber and were received by Speaker Renaude Lapointe. Several visits to diplomatic missions, including Portugal, Mexico, Greece and India, were planned for later, and as one student said:

"My mind is boggling — if only the schedule wasn't so tight and the time so short..."

The schedule also included: a parliamentary discussion at Carleton University; an RCMP band concert and the Musical Ride; a visit to the Museum of Man; a tour of the city, including Rideau Hall, home of the Governor General; and a presentation of citizenship certificates by Judge Paul Tardif of the Citizenship Court.



High school students visiting Ottawa on a four-day visit, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs across Canada, lunch at the Château Laurier Hotel.