

social benefit (the orientation will be towards the formation of regional and nation-wide systems);

– the Government favours the participation of the federally-regulated communication carriers in the computer services industry *via* the mechanism of a separate affiliate, subject to appropriate conditions to prevent abuse of their privileged position;

– on the other hand, it also favours the relaxation of rules under which computer service firms and users are given access to the carrier transmission facilities;

– improvements in data communications should be distributed equitably throughout all Canada if critical disparities between regions are to be avoided; and that, recognizing the critical and pervasive role of financial institutions in the economy, and the impact of computer-communications systems on the nation's payment and other financial services, the Government will undertake an examination of the development of the computer facilities and services of the chartered banks and other financial institutions (this would be done with a view to determining how the Government can best promote the continuing development of the payments system and determine the appropriate role of the banks in the computer-services industry).

Mr. Pelletier said that the next step would be consultation with the provinces, with industry, with associations and other interested parties, before drawing up concrete computer-communications policies which would be introduced administratively or would, if necessary, be brought before Parliament.

Beef bred in Canada will be born in Australia

Last month, for the first time, Canadian bovine semen was exported to Australia.

Under an agreement signed in February 1972 with Australian veterinary officials it is possible to export the semen if Canadian donor bulls meet rigid health requirements.

The semen, collected and processed in March 1972, mostly from dairy bulls and beef sires, has been quarantined in frozen storage for the past year.

Fifty thousand straws (plastic containers) were eligible for the first shipment. An estimated 400,000 straws have been processed in the past five months in anticipation of a continued demand for Canadian bovine semen in Australia and New Zealand in 1974.

This year the semen will be exported by four artificial insemination units in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta; next year, ten more units in New Brunswick, British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta will qualify.

Exhaust-emission standards review

In the light of the decision taken on April 11 by the United States to adopt less stringent automotive-exhaust emission standards for 1975 model production, the Ministry of Transport, in consultation with other Canadian departments and agencies, will review the proposed Canadian standards for 1975, Transport Minister Jean Marchand announced recently.

Ministry of Transport engineers will begin an immediate review of the new U.S. national standards to determine whether similar regulations would be applicable in Canada. Based on a review of this study, Mr. Marchand stated that he would announce early in May whether Canadian standards would be made compatible with those of the U.S. He stressed that the quality of life of the Canadian public would be paramount in making this decision.

"The 1973 Canadian and U.S. standards have resulted in a reduction in exhaust emissions from new motor vehicles of about 70 per cent, as compared to the pre-1966 uncontrolled automobile engines. The new 1975 U.S. national standards announced last Wednesday would result in 83 per cent reduction from the emissions of pre-controlled automobiles. This represents a substantial advance but is somewhat short of the originally proposed 96 per cent reduction," said Mr. Marchand.

The new U.S. 1975 national standards could be accomplished by the use of engine features such as exhaust gas recirculation, air injection, early fuel evaporation, electronic ignitions and carburetor modifications. It is estimated that these changes could be accomplished at an added cost of from \$30 to \$40 on each car.

Houses to victims of Icelandic volcano

Ten modular houses built in Gimli, Manitoba, will be flown to the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik as a gift to victims of the volcanic disaster from the Westmen Islands (Vestmannaeyjar).

The two and three-bedroom dwellings, worth \$112,500, are a gift from the federal and Manitoba governments and from Misawa Homes Company Limited of Japan.

The Japanese firm and the Manitoba government are the joint owners of Misawa Homes of Canada, Limited, Gimli, the builders of the modular dwellings.

Announcement of the gift was made last month by External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp and National Defence Minister James Richardson on behalf of the Federal Government, and by Premier Ed Schreyer of Manitoba and C.C. Hunt, president of Misawa Homes of Canada, Limited.

The National Defence Department will transport the components for the modular homes by *Hercules* aircraft, direct from Gimli airbase to Reykjavik.

Premier Schreyer said that ever since Icelandic settlers first came to what is now Manitoba almost a century ago, there have been close and continuous ties with Iceland, and it was fitting that Manitoba contribute a donation that reflected this association "in both a practical and symbolic way".

The volcanic eruptions that first occurred on January 23 and again on March 22 have caused extensive damage on one island, Heimaey, and will have far-reaching effects on the Icelandic economy. It is estimated that between \$20 and \$30 million will be needed to resettle the 5,300 people who were evacuated to the mainland. Vestmannaeyjar fishermen have accounted for about 17 per cent of Iceland's fish catch – the lack of which will be a significant loss for a country where over 80 per cent of the economy is tied directly to the fishing industry.

The contribution made by the Canadian Government supplements donations from the Icelandic community in Canada. A Westmen Island Disaster Fund with a target goal of \$25,000 has been set up by the Icelandic National League in Winnipeg. The Government of British Columbia has also contributed \$25,000 to the disaster fund.