

Mobile sign kits ensure safety for road construction crews



Anyone who has ever worked on a construction crew on the road knows what happens to the signs that are erected to warn motorists of road repairs. They get scratched, dirty, bent, forgotten, run over, and variously praised, kicked or cursed as jobs progress.

Peter Boychuk, a technical engineering officer with the Manitoba Department of Highways has come up with a simple solution to the sign headache.

He designed, developed, and is promoting the portable sign trailer shown above, made of lightweight aluminum, built for the department by Shopost Industries Ltd., of Winnipeg. Each trailer includes four red flags, a flagman's kit, ten 28-inch yellow cones, three

portable sign stands, five types of construction sign (two of each type), tail-lights, signals, and chain.

The trailers have hitches for towing (usually by half-ton trucks) but are so well-balanced one man can easily handle them. Testing began in 1971, and 14 are currently on the road — one in each district of the Manitoba Highways Department.

"All reports, whether written or verbal, have been excellent," says Mr. Boychuk. "Our foremen love them. We've even had compliments from motorists who say the trailers themselves help make signs more visible. That means our crews don't have to fear quite so much for their lives around a busy construction site, and can concentrate better on their work."

International Development Research Centre grant to Nepal

A grant of \$260,000 to the Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) in Kathmandu, Nepal, to support a study of the resources and needs of that country's far western region, was announced last month by the President of the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Dr. W. David Hopper.

Road construction, communications,

health and welfare services and basic agricultural growth through better extension services will be studied. Planning for an adequate administrative machine at local and regional levels to carry development schemes through to completion will be another important aspect of the work, which will last some 20 months.

Nepal, a country of 12 million people,

is short of experienced and senior researchers who might supervise this study. Part of the IDRC grant will therefore cover the cost of overseas training of CEDA staff involved in the project and the salary of an external consultant, whom CEDA hopes to recruit from another Asian country. The grant also covers the salaries of 24 Nepalese research assistants and the travel costs of the consultant and researchers.

It is expected that the project will benefit through its association with the regional development study in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines which began earlier this year with IDRC supporting funds.

Program to contain wheat prices

According to a statement issued on September 11 from the office of Otto Lang, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, the recently-increasing burden on consumers of high wheat prices is being halted by a program that will cost the federal Treasury over \$100 million a year. The maximum prices that may be charged to millers for wheat used in Canada are being reduced to the levels that prevailed at the beginning of this crop year; and, at the same time, the subsidy of \$1 a bushel, which the Federal Government has been paying, is being increased to \$1.75. This subsidy prevents the full impact of the market from falling on consumers. Both measures will significantly reduce the pressure on consumer prices for wheat products.

The maximum price that producers will receive for bread and durum wheats used in Canada will be \$5 and \$7.50 a bushel respectively. With the Federal Government subsidy of \$1.75 a bushel, this means that millers and other users will be paying \$3.25 a bushel for bread wheat and \$5.75 for durum wheat. While this is considerably less than the prices that domestic users have been paying in recent weeks, the Government subsidy will maintain producer returns at near peak levels.

Although wheat producers will be obtaining, at the present time, slightly less returns from the domestic market than they will from current exports, the Government is guaranteeing that for the next seven years, producers will