

Canada joins international coal research group

Canada will take part in the work of a coal-research service being established under the International Energy Agency's research and development program.

The 18-member IEA, which was established in autumn 1974, includes most of the western industrialized countries. Its basic aim is to contribute to the development of a stable world energy order. Canada, which participated in the negotiations leading to the formation of the agency, continues to be active in its programs.

The coal-research service will be involved in three fields — economic assessment, technical information and coal-mining technology. Headquarters will be in London, England, and will be managed by NCB(IEA) Services Ltd, a company established for the purpose by Britain's National Coal Board, which was chosen as the "lead" agency for this co-operative endeavour.

In Canada's expanded federal research and development effort on energy, announced on February 23 by Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Alastair Gillespie, coal was given a high priority, after energy-conservation and supply of liquid fuels.

U.S. award for Manitoba broadcasts

Manitoba's Department of Education's School Broadcasts division has won an Ohio State award for a radio program on the former RCMP patrol schooner *St. Roch*, the province's Education Minister Ben Hanuschak recently announced.

Mr. Hanuschak said the program was given an award in the category "Social Sciences: Children and Youth" at the fortieth annual Ohio State University competition March 2 in Columbus, Ohio. U.S. Glen Harrison, supervisor of school broadcasts, received the award on behalf of the department.

The Ohio State awards are the oldest program competitions in broadcasting. They recognize meritorious achievement in educational, information and public affairs programming. Six panels of judges audition more than 800 entries annually, representing the programming of both commercial and non-

commercial broadcasters and production agencies in the United States, Canada and other countries.

Factors considered include significance of subject, preparation and organization of content, effectiveness of presentation, authenticity and suitability for intended audience. Only one award is given in each category.

The citation on the program issued by the judges was: "A factual dramatic portrayal of the wooden motor schooner *St. Roch*, built in North Vancouver, B.C. in 1928 for the Arctic patrol service of the RCMP, which became famous as the first vessel to navigate successfully the Northwest Passage from Pacific to Atlantic (1940-42). This program presents the powerful fascination of the Canadian North in an authentic, well-documented manner through one adventure of the *St. Roch* in the opening and exploration of this area."

The Winnipeg program depicts preparations for the successful west-east voyage, the voyage itself and the return trip. It was broadcast on CBC school broadcast programming last May.

French coins from the deep for Fortress of Louisbourg

The Finance Minister of Nova Scotia, Peter Nicholson, recently presented federal Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Judd Buchnan with two eighteenth century French gold coins to be displayed at the Fortress of Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island, N.S.

The coins were recovered from the French supply ship *Chameau*, which sank in 1725.

Mr. Buchnan said the coins would be a fine addition to the display at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park.

"They will help Parks Canada tell the story of New France to the many thousands who visit Louisbourg each year," he said.

The 600-ton *Chameau*, bound for Quebec City, carrying a crew of 100 men and 216 passengers, as well as a cargo of gold, silver, textiles, clothing, animals and gunpowder, sank in a storm on August 27, 1725, 12 miles northeast of Louisbourg. All lives were lost. The coins at that time, would have bought two cords of wood or a musket or 350 pounds of fish.

National university policy sought

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) wants to consult with federal and provincial governments to determine a national policy for universities.

The Association is asking the Federal Government for a two-year extension of the Fiscal Arrangements Act, which provides for a 50-50 sharing of operating expenses between the federal and provincial governments for post-secondary education until a national policy can be established.

The current act expires in March 1977.

In a brief submitted to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, the AUCC points out that Canada is not ready for major changes in the current cost-sharing arrangement because at present there is no forum for examining and lasting implication of change.

Regional differences

During a news conference, AUCC president, Dr. Michael Oliver, president of Ottawa's Carleton University, pointed out that the present system of financing universities "leads to regional differences because it allows the Federal Government little voice in how the money is used".

"There are indications that the Federal Government wants a greater voice and we (the AUCC) want to ensure that we have some influence in any changes that are made.

"We want recognition of a national dimension but we are not looking for any change in the distribution of power under the BNA Act," says the association president.

Centres of excellence

The AUCC brief advocates "centres of excellence", rather than many universities offering the same programs. The brief notes that in many fields, a large number of institutions with small mediocre programs is a poor substitute for one or two institutes with first-rate programs.

The brief also calls for a national policy to make decisions about whether limits should be placed on foreign students or out-of-province enrolment if funds are too limited to meet student demand.