

Energy conference agrees on temporary price freeze

At the close of the two-day federal and provincial conference on energy on January 23, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a plan agreed upon by the Federal Government and the provinces that will freeze prices on oil and gas across Canada at their present levels until the end of March.

The plan will provide \$240 million in subsidies to oil refineries in Eastern Canada during the next two months to keep retail prices at existing levels. Had agreement not been reached, consumers in Eastern Canada would have had to pay some 12 cents a gallon more for gas and oil almost immediately because of increases in the prices of imported crude oil. The agreement will provide for a one-price system for imported crude effective April 1. Mr. Trudeau said that after the end of March there would be a reasonable increase in all domestically-produced crude oil, followed by a series of "staged reasonable increases" over a specified time. The export tax of \$6.40 a barrel on crude oil to the United States will be

applied, half of the revenues going to the provinces that produced the oil the other half going to the Federal Government to help finance the subsidies to Eastern Canada. The federal Minister of Energy, Donald Macdonald, estimated that the tax on exports would yield \$190 million to Ottawa by the end of March. The balance, \$50 million, to be paid out in subsidies, would come from general revenues. The Saskatchewan government will increase its royalties on oil by \$1 or \$2 a barrel. The well-head price will rise correspondingly to \$5 or \$6 a barrel from the present \$4. Crude oil from Alberta will remain at its present level of \$4 until March 31. On April 1 one price for crude oil will be established across Canada but as yet it is not known what it will be.

Mr. Trudeau said that more federal-provincial negotiations would take place during the next few weeks; he did not exclude the possibility of another senior energy conference to conclude a new policy.

the Board of the National Theatre School of Canada. In 1957 she received the Canadian Drama Award for outstanding service to theatre in Canada. She was the first president of the Children's Film Library of Canada and was a vice-president of the Canadian Association for Adult Education from 1958 to 1961.

Mrs. McGibbon has served on the Board of Governors of the Elliot Lake Centre for Continuing Education, was a vice-president of the Canadian Conference of the Arts, and has been president of the Board of Governors of Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

In 1967 she received both the Canadian Centennial Medal and the City of Toronto's Civic Award of Merit.

Lieutenant-governors represent the Crown, and are generally appointed for five-year terms by the Governor General of Canada on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

There are ten provincial governments in Canada, each headed by a lieutenant-governor and consisting of an elected legislative assembly. All provincial governments have a unicameral legislature.

Provincial governments are responsible for matters such as education, working conditions, property laws and health. In each province, elected municipal governments deal with local affairs. Each province has its own series of courts, ranging from magistrates' courts to the provincial superior court.

Canada's first lady lieutenant-governor

Pauline Emily McGibbon, Chancellor of the University of Toronto, has been appointed by Prime Minister Trudeau as Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. She will take office following the retirement at the end of March of W. Ross Macdonald, who has served since 1968.

Mrs. McGibbon, 63, wife of Donald McGibbon, Treasurer of Imperial Oil Limited, will be the first woman to hold viceregal office in Canada. She is also the first woman chancellor of the Toronto University, a position she has held since 1971, and the first female to have been chosen president of the university's alumni association.

"People have told me," said Mrs. McGibbon in a recent interview, "that many women will be happy about the appointment and I hope some men will be too."

Mrs. McGibbon has been active in the development of the performing arts in Canada, and in public affairs generally, particularly through the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE). She has been closely involved in the



Pauline Emily McGibbon, Ontario's next lieutenant-governor.

work of the IODE both in Sarnia and in Toronto, and served from 1963 to 1965 as its national president. She was president of the Dominion Drama Festival for two years till 1959, and more recently served as chairman of

Alberta petrochemical complex

Fred Peacock, Minister of Industry for the Government of Alberta and Clyde H. Boyd, President of Dow Chemical of Canada, Limited, announced recently that Dow was proceeding with its program for the construction of a huge petrochemical complex involving an ethylene plant and a number of other chemical-producing plants in Alberta. Coincidental with the ethylene project is an immediate multi-dollar expansion of its chlorine-caustic plant at Fort Saskatchewan to increase capacity by approximately 50 per cent. The company also announced construction of a \$2-million styrofoam plastic foam plant in Alberta.