

HOT-BED HAZARD COOLED

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister, Ron Basford, recently announced that from March 31, 1972, all blankets, sheets and other bedding produced in or imported into Canada will be required to meet certain standards of "flammability" (i.e. fire-safety standards).

Mr. Basford pointed out that the new Hazardous Products Act makes it possible to take effective action when areas of hazard in consumer products are identified. Some types of bedding that do not meet the new standards have been on the market for a number of years, he added.

"For over a year the Standards Branch of my Department has been conducting tests of textile products for flammability," Mr. Basford stated. "This testing identified a clear need for basic safety standards in bedding, particularly as a significant number of house fires are known to start in bedrooms."

HIGHER STANDARD

The standard performance test involves measuring the burning rate of a five-inch strip of the material under specified conditions, the Minister said, and a burning rate of less than four seconds was considered dangerously inflammable where products have raised fibre surfaces. This is a minimum rate that had been set for a number of textile products in Canada and the United States. "However, to provide an extra safety factor in this type of bedding in Canada, the decision has been made to move directly to a seven-second standard," said Mr. Basford.

To allow manufacturers to meet the increased safety standards, time had to be provided for the changeover in the manufacturing process. "I have discussed not only the program but the effective date with the Consumers' Association of Canada and the Retail Council of Canada, and both welcome and concur with the proposed course of action," the Minister said.

"I have impressed on the textile industry the need for speed to correct this situation," he continued, "I have been assured of their full co-operation and am confident that nearly all the bedding in production will be of the new higher standard before the end of this year."

NRC SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Research Council of Canada has awarded 47 new "1967 science scholarships" for 1971-72.

These awards, which are NRC's prestige prizes for graduate students, mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Council's scholarships program and the centennial of Canadian Confederation. First awarded in

1967, they are designed to help outstanding young Canadians to obtain doctorate degrees in science and engineering.

Each winner receives an annual grant of \$5,300 for three years, and the scholarships are renewable for a fourth year if necessary. Academic fees and travel costs are also paid by the Council, and the universities at which recipients will study receive annual grants of up to \$1,500.

NATO FELLOWSHIPS

NRC has also awarded 11 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) postdoctorate fellowships for 1971-72, with funds provided by the NATO Science Committee.

These awards are designed to stimulate the exchange of young scientists between member countries of NATO. They represent Canada's part in NATO's Science Fellowship program.

Eleven NATO fellowships, with values of \$6,400 and \$7,600, will be held as follows: two each in the United States, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

QUEBEC PUBLICATIONS IN THE U.S.

Some 400 publications by Quebec authors are now being offered for sale by the international Scholarly Book Services Incorporated of Illinois, United States. Many of these publications have been displayed for some months in the windows of the Rockefeller Center in New York, while 118 books from 16 Quebec publishers were exhibited during the American congress of Social Sciences last November.

As part of a program to promote the sales of Quebec books on the U.S. market, the "Conseil Supérieur du Livre" announced last December the establishment of a third centre for the distribution of French-Canadian books and school manuals written in Quebec. The new centre was established following a professional and commercial agreement between CSL and international Scholarly Book Services, which already represents some 20 French-Canadian publishers in the U.S. Participating publishers are all members of the Canadian Publishers Association and the Quebec School Manual Publishers Society.

With the co-operation of the Cultural Affairs Branch of the federal Department of External Affairs the "Conseil Supérieur du Livre" will take part next June in the international book exhibition for the fourth consecutive year, at the convention of American librarians in Dallas, Texas. Participants will share a stand sponsored by the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The new distribution centre will also benefit from the help of the Quebec provincial government in a promotion program currently under study.