

NEW POSTAL RATES ANNOUNCED

Postmaster-General Eric Kierans, recently announced a big step in long-range planning to change postal rates and mailing regulations from their long-familiar pattern to a modern commercial system. No class of mail will remain unaffected. Rates that do not require Parliamentary approval will be put into effect on November 1.

The difference between third-class mail and parcel post was for many years determined to a large extent by the intention of the mailer. This system resulted in the establishment of rates on individual rulings rather than on post-office handling costs. Now all third-class and fourth-class items, will be handled as third-class mail, if they weigh a pound or less, and as parcel post if they weigh over one pound. The administrative work in defining class will be eliminated, with the result that the work at post-office wickets and in industrial mail-rooms will be faster and more accurate. With this change, the special delivery and insurance systems that applied to parcel post or fourth-class mail will be extended to cover third-class mail.

THIRD-CLASS

Included in the third-class category are addressed and unaddressed circulars and all types of greeting-cards, including Christmas-cards. The changes in rates for these items, which are representative of the new rate structure, will establish the cost of mailing an addressed circular or a greeting-card at 5 cents for the first two ounces and 3 cents for each additional two ounces. Unaddressed advertising material will cost 3 cents for the first two ounces and 1½ cent for each additional two ounces. The lesser

FEDERAL INFORMATION TO BE STUDIED

On various occasions, Prime Minister Trudeau has expressed his desire to improve the information services of the Federal Government so that Canadians may be better informed of its work and of the services it renders them. The Government hopes that this process will help Canadians to play an even greater part in the affairs of their country.

Accordingly, Mr. Trudeau has announced the formation of a "task force" within the Privy Council, consisting of Messrs D'Iberville Fortier (Chairman), Tom Ford and Bernard Ostry, to study the information services of the Federal Government. Special advisers will be Derek Bedson and Michel Roy.

The task force will submit its recommendations no later than March 1, 1969.

The Prime Minister stated that the force would be called on to study the structure, operation and activities of federal departmental information organs in Canada and abroad and, where necessary, their publicity programmes. It will make recommendations to the Government on improvements designed to effect better co-ordination of federal information activities.

rate for unaddressed mail is based on the actual handling operation, which is less than for individually-addressed mail. Similarly, a special rate has been established for mailings in large quantities (10,000 or more third-class addressed items), at 4 cents for the first two ounces and 3 cents for each additional two ounces. This rate is contingent upon the mailer pre-sorting and bundling his mail in accordance with post-office requirements.

Parcel-post mail will be adjusted only for over-size items, where the new handling surcharge will be 75 cents. Oversize items are those exceeding the established parcel-post dimensions, which must receive special handling in the mail-stream.

International rates that could be adjusted within the restructured rate schedule for domestic mails have also been revised in all areas, including an increase in the airmail-letter rate to the United States. The new rate will be 10 cents an ounce, which is the same as that on United States air-mail letters addressed to Canada.

Early in the forthcoming session of Parliament, legislation will be introduced to increase the postal rates on domestic first-class letter mails and on second-class mail, which consists of newspapers and magazines. In restructuring the postal rates, Mr. Kierans said a cost-recovery system was being followed; as Postmaster General, he said, he expected each class of mail and post-office service either to pay its own way or to accept its fair share of the operating costs of the Canada Post Office.

The revised rates are expected to add \$17 million to postal revenues for the remainder of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1969.

The task force may consult interested governmental and private organizations and call on persons in the various media, as well as other consultants, where such measures appear useful.

AID TO INDONESIA

Wheat flour and skim-milk powder valued at \$850,000 are being sent to Indonesia under Canada's international development programme, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently.

Indonesia has urgent food needs, created by recent drought, and for this reason an emergency allocation of \$500,000 has been added to Indonesia's food-aid programme allocation of \$350,000. Canadian wheat flour will account for \$733,300 of the grant, with the remainder spent of milk powder.

Since 1959, when Canada began its aid programme to Indonesia, a total of \$3,400,000 has been spent on food aid and \$2,831,203 for capital and technical assistance, under which 389 Indonesian students have received training in Canada.