

Poison prevention kits for parents

Health and Welfare Canada is making available kits to parents that are designed to encourage them to take steps to reduce accidental poisoning in the home.

The kit entitled *Accident Poisoning — Prevention*, is designed for parents of preschool children and contains a manual on how to poison-proof the home and a list of household poisons. There are telephone stickers for emergency numbers and an explanation of steps to take if poisoning does occur. The kit, originally produced by the Ontario government, is being made available by Health and Welfare Canada to the rest of Canada.

The kits will be distributed to parents by public health nurses in each province. They will also be made available to emergency departments of paediatric hospitals, poison information units and major medical centres.

Canada at OECD meeting

Minister of Finance Allan MacEachen and Minister of State for International Trade Edward Lumley participated in the ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held in Paris, May 10-11.

The meeting provided an opportunity for finance and trade ministers from OECD member countries to review the economic situation and to identify policy responses. Their talks focused on areas such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth, trade issues in the 1980s, agricultural trade, and economic relations with non-member countries.

The OECD is an organization grouping 24 industrialized countries and is dedicated to promoting their economic growth, to fostering development assistance, and to encouraging trade expansion.

In a statement on macro-economic issues delivered to the meeting, Finance Minister MacEachen said that OECD members must "persevere with anti-inflationary policies". He added that they "must reaffirm the fundamental link between a reduction of inflation and a return to sustained growth and more jobs". Mr. MacEachen said that genuine recovery from the current difficult economic circumstances would be realized through lower inflation and corresponding reduced interest rates and greater consumer confidence.

Trade Minister Lumley, in his speech

to the meeting, said: "A greater convergence of views and closer co-ordination of policy on macro-economic issues is essential to an improvement in and expansion of our multilateral trading system."

He added that Canada welcomed the Secretary General's report with its proposals on trade issues for the 1980s. The minister said the report provided an important framework for study and highlighted significant links between trade and macro-economic policies.

"It illustrates as well the beneficial impact on trade of effective adjustment policies by industrial countries.... From a Canadian perspective we have particular concerns on which we look to the OECD

and GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) for complementary action in the months ahead," said Mr. Lumley.

Following the ministerial meeting, Trade Minister Lumley participated in talks with United States Special Trade Representative William Brock, Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry Shintaro Abe, and Vice-President (External Relations) of the Commission of the European Communities Wilhelm Haferkamp. The talks were a continuation of trade discussions held at Key Biscayne, Florida in January. Mr. Lumley also took the opportunity during their meetings to engage in separate bilateral discussions with each of the other participants.

Orders for new commuter plane continue to rise

Orders for de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited's *Dash 8* commuter airplane have reached \$250 million with more than a year remaining before the first plane is expected to take to the air.

Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion Herbert Gray, who was on hand for the recent unveiling of a full-scale mock-up of the plane's interior in Toronto, said that the \$250-million figure represents firm orders (on which a deposit is made) for about 40 *Dash 8*s and associated spare parts. Total orders and options for the aircraft now stand at 110.

By contrast the *Dash 8*'s predecessor, the 50-seat *Dash 7* was already flying before de Havilland received its first firm order for that aircraft.

The company must sell between 300

and 400 of the new planes to break even. The airplane manufacturer has staked its commercial future on the *Dash 8* which it hopes will capture a large share of the growing worldwide market for medium-sized commuter aircraft. The company has estimated the possible market for the plane at about 1 500.

Production for the *Dash 8* is scheduled for this autumn with the first flight set for 1983. First delivery to a customer will be in 1984.

Mr. Gray said de Havilland would receive \$5.5 million in federal funding to help buy two machines worth \$7.5 million. The machines will be used to produce the *Dash 8*. De Havilland is carrying out a \$50-million plant expansion to accommodate construction of the plane.



An artist's concept of the Dash 8 commuter plane.