

## DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced the appointment of Mr. Gordon George Riddell, Ambassador to Senegal, as Ambassador to Thailand, with concurrent accreditation as High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He succeeds Mr. G.E. Cox, who is returning to Canada.

Mr. Sharp has also announced that Mr. Ross Campbell, whose appointment as Ambassador to Japan was previously announced, will also be accredited to Korea, with residence in Tokyo, Japan; that Mr. Robert Louis Rogers, whose appointment as Ambassador to Yugoslavia was announced earlier, will also be accredited to Bulgaria and Romania, with residence in Belgrade, Yugoslavia; and that Mr. Benjamin Rogers, Ambassador to Italy, will become Chief of Protocol. He will replace Mr. Yvon Beaulne, who has been appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Secretary of State.

## ELASTIC WORKING HOURS

The first formal experiment with flexible working hours in Canada's Public Service has been initiated by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Robert Andras, Minister of the Department, announced recently. Mr. Andras said that flexible hours were being introduced immediately on a four-to-six-month trial basis for the 50 employees of the Department's personnel branch. The experiment will determine feasibility of extension of the privilege to other areas of the Department.

Within limits imposed by operational requirements, employees of the branch are free to choose any starting-time between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and to finish work any time between 3.30 p.m. and 6 p.m., after they have completed the standard seven-and-a-half-hour working day. Lunch breaks, which must be a minimum of half an hour, can be longer with a supervisor's consent, as long as an employee can complete seven-and-a-half hours of work in the day.

The plan stipulates, however, that an employee's chosen hours must not conflict with organizational or service needs of the Department and all employees must be at work during the "core" hours of 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with the exception of lunch breaks.

Anyone taking advantage of the privilege of flexible hours must comply with the schedule chosen and must also record comings and goings on a punch-clock - the only practical way of ensuring that all benefit equally from the personal freedom afforded by the scheme.

Allowing employees to choose their own hours of work is generally considered to be an enlightened management practice and is growing in popularity in both Europe and North America. "Flexible hours allow the employee to 'tailor' his working day to suit his own personal transportation and family con-

siderations, and also help alleviate traffic jams and smooth out peaks in use of public transit, elevators and restaurants," Mr. Andras said. "Studies we're aware of indicate that both employee morale and productivity tend to improve with freedom to select starting and finishing times."

If the experiment proves successful, discussions will be undertaken with Public Service staff unions, with a view to extending flexible hours to as many as possible of the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department's 1,800 employees.

## CANADIAN FABRICS SOUGHT

"On-site" sales worth \$2.15 million were reported by ten Canadian textile firms that exhibited at the Interstoff show in Frankfurt, Germany, May 15 to 18, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce announced recently.

Company officials estimate that further orders of \$20 million can be expected as a direct result of the show, which attracted about 21,000 visitors. On display were fabrics and designs shown by exhibitors from 19 countries. New fabrics from Canadian manufacturers in a variety of unique patterns provided a different look for foreign buyers. Many featured innovations in standard fabrics, such as cotton and wool, that gave them added wear and easier care properties.

This is the fourth consecutive occasion on which the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce sponsored an exhibit at Interstoff, the largest international textile exhibition in the world.

## IMPORTED POLYESTER PROBE

The Textile and Clothing Board will conduct an inquiry into an allegation that the importation of polyester filament yarn into Canada is causing serious injury to the production of Canadian textile and clothing goods. The request for the inquiry was made by the Canadian Textiles Institute.

The Board will report to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce regarding the effects of imports of polyester filament yarn classified under Tariff Items 56105-1 and 56110-1 on Canadian production.

Interested parties may submit briefs relating to the inquiry not later than August 15, 1972. Hearings related to the inquiry will be held if and as required and will be in public if the Board decides the nature of the information to be disclosed so permits.

Any producer claiming to have been injured and requesting special measures of protection will be expected to file a plan describing the adjustments he proposes to make in his operations in order to increase his ability to meet international competition in the Canadian market.