

News briefs

The Canadian armed forces will follow the lead of armies in the United States, Britain and India by allowing Sikhs to enlist without having to cut their hair or their beards. Discussion between the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the armed forces resulted in the change. Enlisted Sikhs will be allowed to wear green turbans with regimental badges. However, a commission spokesman said that they could still face difficulties if required to wear steel helmets in combat roles.

The fourth session of the thirty-first British Columbia Legislature opened in Victoria on March 22. Highlights from the Throne Speech include: introduction of a new energy policy; announcement of a comprehensive dental care program; take-over of federal powers to regulate B. C. Telephone; expansion of home purchase assistance programs and low-interest loans for development projects throughout the province.

Massey-Ferguson Limited of Toronto has received orders valued at \$16 million (U.S.) for the supply of farm tractors and harvesting machines from Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan.

Transcanada Pipelines Limited's construction spending on its natural gas pipeline system is expected to total about \$59 million in 1979, up from \$52.2 million in 1978, according to the company's annual report.

Consumer prices rose in February, led by food prices. The consumer price index was 184.4, up 0.9 per cent from 182.7 in January and up 9.2 per cent from 168.9 in February 1978. The index has a base of 100 for 1971.

Hudson's Bay Co. of Winnipeg has concluded "several million dollars worth of purchases" with the People's Republic of China. Items include carpets, luggage,

home decorations, toys, stationery supplies, and non-restricted textile apparel and yardage. According to William Coleman, executive director of the Canada-China Trade Council, the purchases "opened the door for Hudson's Bay Co. to build an increasing volume of business on a broad diversified commodity basis with China".

Ontario's new Ombudsman is the Honourable Donald R. Morand, Q.C., formerly a Judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario (Trial Division). He succeeds Arthur Maloney, Q.C., the province's first Ombudsman, who was appointed in 1975. Mr. Morand, who headed the 1974-76 Ontario Royal Commission on Metropolitan Police Practices, was instrumental in bringing about establishment of the Family Law Branch of the Ontario Supreme Court.

Ontario will increase its emphasis on trade and business development in the eastern Mediterranean countries, the Middle East and southern Asia by sponsoring seven missions to various countries in those areas this year, including participation in Technology '79, a technical trade fair in Tel Aviv, Israel. Premier William Davis visited Israel and Iran last year, while the then Minister of Industry and Tourism, the late John Rhodes, explored investment and tourism opportunities in Egypt and the Sudan for Ontario companies.

The transfer of Canfarm Co-operative Services from Agriculture Canada to a private company managed by Canadian farmers was completed April 2. It is taking over programs that were developed and researched by the federal and provincial departments of agriculture.

Summer in Canada, published by the Canadian Bureau for International Education for Canadian travellers and visitors, offers information on travel, accommodation, outdoor activities, study programs and festivals taking place in Canada during the summer. It also contains a section with information on travel and summer camps for the disadvantaged and handicapped.

The Export Development Corporation has approved loans, surety and export credits insurance totalling \$40.8 million to support prospective export sales of \$57.9 million to five countries: Cameroon, New Zealand, Senegal, Spain and Venezuela. The transactions involve such goods and services as a computer analog control system, valves, spare parts and re-

lated services, aluminum concrete forming systems, aircraft, and supply and installation of four electrical power distribution networks.

Waste from Maritime fish processing plants could provide local farmers with an inexpensive source of feed for livestock and poultry. Two scientists from Agriculture Canada and the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Forestry, working with provincial fisheries experts, combined ground fish waste from low-fat, white fish, such as cod and sole, with an organic formic acid to control bacteria and mold. The finished product is a relatively stable liquid that can be stored for at least a year without spoiling. Tests reveal satisfactory feed consumption and growth rate by cattle fed a grain-fish silage mixture, and no "fishy" taste or aroma in the meat of calves slaughtered after the test period.

The Charles Herbert Best Chair of Medical Research — a \$1-million endowment — was presented to the University of Toronto recently by Ontario Health Minister Dennis Timbrell. The Chair, financed by funds from the provincial lottery, honours the late Dr. Best (co-discoverer of insulin) for his many contributions to medical science.

Reductions in duty of between 2 and 15 percentage points on such imported products as vegetable juices, frozen potatoes, raisins and grapefruit juice have been announced by Finance Minister Jean Chrétien. Other items such as apples, oranges, bananas and grapefruit already enter the country duty-free.

Alberta will introduce new programs for the handicapped, including a guaranteed-income scheme, which will amount to about \$23 million in the 1979-80 budget. The programs will include financing for regular education for the multiple-handicapped and provision of mechanical aids such as wheelchairs.

Food store profits rose \$22 million, up 18 per cent, to \$146 million in the first nine months of 1978 over those reported in the same period a year earlier, the Anti-Inflation Board states. Before-tax profit margins rose to \$1.88 per \$100 of sales in the period, up from \$1.80 in 1977.

An old grocery store in Toronto is the location of what is believed to be the world's first full-time multilingual broadcasting station. CFMT, Canada's First Multilingual Television, is to go on the air in September with about 100 hours a week in 24 languages.

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