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Boost for forest products and shipbuilding industries

A commitment by the Federal Government to spend about \$235 million to modernize pulp and paper plants, in cost-shared incentive grants with the provinces, was announced by Robert Andras, President of the recently formed Board of Economic Development Ministers, on February 1.

Mr. Andras, speaking at the first of a series of monthly press conferences to report on the Board's work, also outlined plans to reorient the Government's policy of support for shipbuilding, involving the extension to the end of 1979 of a 20 percent subsidy to the industry, and the acceleration of ship procurement orders.

Pulp and paper plants

The policy for developing Canada's forest products industry is in two parts: the quarter-of-a-billion-dollar commitment for streamlining operations, which would be spent over the next five to seven years; and the implementation of measures to conserve and increase the nation's forest

resources. Some of the improvements, said Mr. Andras, would reduce pollution.

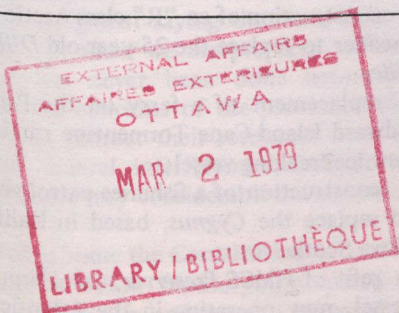
The funds would be allocated according to the probability of investment: about \$60 million of federal money for the Atlantic provinces, \$90 million for Quebec, \$46 million for Ontario, and \$39 million for Western Canada.

Aid would continue to be given to other forest products operations in areas now designated under the Regional Development Incentives Act. An offer would be extended to the British Columbia government to discuss ways of helping to update methods and equipment in the plywood and sawmill industry, principally in the southwestern part of the province.

In forest management, the Federal Government is now spending about \$43 million a year through agreements with Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. This is expected to rise in the next fiscal year as a result of the budgetary re-allocations an-



Log booms on the Gatineau River near Ottawa, on their way to the sawmill.



Ten years ago today...

Mrs. Réjeanne Laberge-Colas, a Montreal lawyer, became the first woman in Canada to be named to the bench of a Superior Court.

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