

NEW ENVOY TO PRAGUE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced the appointment of Mr. T.B.B. Wainman-Wood as Canadian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia. He replaces Mr. Malcolm Bow, who has been appointed Head of the Disarmament Division of the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. Wainman-Wood served with Canadian diplomatic missions in Havana from 1946 to 1948 and in Helsinki from 1952 to 1955. He attended the National Defence College in Kingston, Ontario, from 1955 to 1956 and was on loan to the Prime Minister's Office the following year. Appointed First Secretary in Warsaw in 1957, Mr. Wainman-Wood served as Chargé d'Affaires at the post from 1958 to 1959. He was First Secretary and later Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Paris before returning to Ottawa in 1963 and, since 1965, he has been High Commissioner for Canada in Cyprus.

URBAN TRANSPORT RESEARCH UNIT

The Minister of Transport announced recently that he had directed the Transportation Policy and Research Branch of his Department to develop plans for establishment of an urban transportation unit in the Department of Transport designed to help develop the role of the Federal Government in the collection of data and in research and experimentation in urban transportation problems. In formulating a federal programme, the unit will work with interested federal departments and agencies concerned with urban transportation problems, including the Research Division of the Canadian Transport Commission and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It will also maintain liaison with the appropriate agencies of other levels of government which have more direct responsibility for urban transportation.

Establishment of the unit is part of a plan to encourage the development of a rational approach to solving the transportation problems of Canadian cities. It is suggested that Canada cannot maintain a healthy economy if traffic congestion and inadequate public transportation facilities injure the productivity of the cities. Since urban transportation contributes approximately one-fifth of the cost of all urban economic activity, measures to improve the efficiency

of urban transportation can be beneficial both to national economy and to the quality of living of most Canadians.

GOODNESS FLAKES

Instant fruit-sauce flakes in a wide variety of popular flavours and colours are a versatile new food ingredient, says John Kitson, a food technologist employed at the Summerland Research Station of the federal Department of Agriculture.

The flakes can be reconstituted into a sauce in a few seconds by mixing them with cold water, and thick purées for use as sundae toppings can be made by mixing equal volumes of water and flakes.

Dry flakes which can be used as a stable, low-cost fruit ingredient for packaged cake and muffin mixes, can also be compressed into discs, tablets, granules or bars. These can be used to add colour and flavour to packaged breakfast cereals or candy.

The new product, which is not yet in use commercially, was developed at the Research Station. The flakes were made by blending fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, loganberries, cranberries, blueberries, black currants or bananas with varying amounts of applesauce, then drying the mixture on a double-drum drier.

The drier, which looks like a clothes-wringer, compresses the mixture which clings to the rollers. As it rolls round on the drum, it is cut by doctor blades and taken off in sheets. When cool, the dry sheets are crumbled into flakes.

LABOUR FORCE

Total employment in Canada declined by 30,000 to 7,677,000 from October to November 1968. The decrease was somewhat less than the average decline from October to November for the past several years.

Unemployment increased by 50,000 to 338,000. The labour force increased by 20,000 to 8,015,000, whereas it usually decreases during this period.

Compared to that of a year ago, the labour force increased substantially by 317,000, or 4.1 per cent. Employment was higher by 268,000, or 3.6 per cent; unemployment was higher by 49,000.