

presence of sunlight to produce photochemical smog. The Ministers said that these contaminant emissions from gasoline-powered cars and trucks in urban areas had been increasing rapidly up to 1968. Owing to vehicle-design modifications and government regulations, the volume of emissions from all motor vehicles has declined since 1968, and this trend is likely to continue to 1980 because of the steady increase in the percentage of vehicles with emission-control systems and the scrapping of older uncontrolled vehicles. The Ministers stated that the proposed regulations for 1975 and 1976 would prevent the total vehicle emissions from again increasing with the growth of the vehicle population in the early 1980s.

The Ministers stated that the exhaust-emission proposals were being announced now to allow the motor vehicle and petroleum industries the needed lead time to intensify their research, production retooling and plan modifications to meet these objectives for 1973, 1975 and 1976.

The Ministers said that the proposed exhaust emission amendments had been submitted to the provincial ministers responsible for motor-vehicle administration and environmental affairs for their consideration.

ELECTRONIC SWITCHING PHONES

Aylmer, Quebec has become the first Canadian community to have its regular telephone service through the SP-1 (stored program) electronic switching system, the first of its kind, designed and developed in Canada. The computer-age system, designed by Bell-Northern Research and installed by Northern Electric Company Limited, is operated by Bell Canada.

Under the new system, calls are routed automatically to any location; conferences or executive meetings can be conducted by telephone; a third person can be added to the conversation; the subscriber can be informed while on the phone, that another caller is waiting; and one or two digits can be dialled in place of the usual seven or 11 digits for frequently-called numbers, etc.

"SP-1 electronic switching is our response to the computer-age demands of advanced technology for new and specialized forms of communications," R.C. Scrivener, Bell Canada president, said. "There will be a larger volume and greater variety of traffic on tomorrow's telecommunications network, and only electronic switching will be flexible enough to handle it efficiently and easily. That is why we have made a major investment in the development of electronic switching."

"The Aylmer project is an important milestone in the most ambitious design and development project ever undertaken jointly by Bell Canada, Northern Electric and Bell-Northern Research," Mr. Scrivener continued.

"We are proud of this unique Canadian achievement and we expect that systems of this type will be used by other North American communications organizations. During 1972, three SP-1 systems will go into service in the Calgary, Alberta, area - at Oakridge, Bowness and Forest Lawn."

"SP-1 is the first of an entire family of electronic switching systems being developed which will serve local and long distance switching needs as well as modern digital systems," Mr. Scrivener said.

SP-1 combines compactness, speed and economy with other capabilities required for computer communications. Its stored program is an adjustable memory which does away with the need for much "hard wiring" and makes various custom-tailored services possible.

Development work for the SP-1 began at the Bell-Northern Research (then Northern Electric) laboratories in Ottawa in 1963. The aim was to design switching systems to meet the specific needs of medium-sized communities.

With over ten million telephones currently in service across Canada, no reasonable number of manual switchboards or operators could possibly cope with the volume of traffic. By connecting all the telephones in a community to an automatic telephone switching office located in or near that community which, in turn, is part of a national or continental network, every telephone in the world would be accessible to any other, with minimum cost and equipment.

The Aylmer facility is designed to serve some 20,000 lines, under average traffic conditions, and to handle up to 36,000 calls an hour. Systems of this type will be installed in several Bell Canada switching centres during the next few years.

SECOND ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

The second International Parliamentary Conference on the Environment will be held in Vienna from June 27 to 29, 1972. It will follow the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment scheduled for Stockholm from June 5 to 16.

The purpose of the second conference is to permit parliamentarians from all continents to meet and review the recommendations of the Stockholm meeting.

The first International Parliamentary Conference on the Environment, held in Bonn from June 2 to 5, 1971, was attended by parliamentarians from 23 countries and all continents. Five Canadian Members of Parliament attended.

Recommendations of the Bonn conference were forwarded to governments and international organizations, as well as to the preparatory committee for the UN Conference on the Human Environment.