

News briefs

Officials from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have signed an agreement in principle to link their electrical utilities into one giant power grid. The project is subject to feasibility studies, to be completed by September 30. In addition, Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed has announced plans to develop a hydro-electric project on the Peace River — the Dunvegan Dam.

The new \$40-million grain export terminal of Pioneer Grain Co. Ltd. of Winnipeg will give the West Coast increased grain exporting capabilities when it is fully operational, according to terminal manager Douglas Larson. The high throughput capacity of the terminal, designed to be the most efficient in Canada, will increase the Port of Vancouver's grain export potential by about 15 per cent. While its storage, at 100,000 metric tons, is smaller than the recently expanded terminals of the Alberta Wheat Pool and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, it will be able to clean and ship grain faster than any other terminal in the country, Mr. Larson said.

Gulf Canada Limited signed a contract recently with Iraq's national oil company for the supply of 25,000 barrels of crude oil daily. The supply agreement, valued at about \$212 million, has a term of 11 months ending December 31, 1980. It calls for the delivery of two types of oil, Basrah medium crude at \$25.30 (U.S.) a barrel and Kirkuk crude at \$26.18 (U.S.) a barrel.

The Export Development Corporation has approved export insurance, guarantees and loans totalling \$347.49 million to support prospective export sales of \$353.25 million by Canadian companies to 15 countries: Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroun, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Kenya, Iraq, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and

the United States. The transactions involve goods and services such as engineering, automatic sprinklers, fabricated metal components, radar equipment, aircraft components, construction equipment, concrete extrusion machinery, aircraft and spare parts.

Robert L. Perry, senior editor of *The Financial Post*, has been named by judges of the National Business Writing Awards as the 1979 recipient of the distinguished service award. The eighth annual awards competition is administered by the Toronto Press Club and supported by the Royal Bank of Canada. Other award winners were: Jim Romahn of the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*, business news reporting award; John Ridsdel of the *Calgary Herald*, investigative business reporting award; Doug Fetherling, business feature writing award for publications with circulation over 100,000; Bill Shields of the *Windsor Star*, business feature writing award for publications with less than 100,000 circulation; Peter Cook of *Executive Magazine*, regular business or financial column award; and Rodney de C. Grey, award for financial writing by a non-journalist for a three-part series in *The Financial Post*.

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd., Toronto, has sold two DASH-7 aircraft to North Yemen for \$15.2 million. The sale includes ground support systems, related services and spare parts. The federal Export Development Corporation is providing financial assistance totalling \$12.2 million.

Projects involving 309 senior citizens' groups across Canada will receive federal contributions totalling \$1,848,519. A total of 39,870 participants are directly involved. The funds are made available through the department's New Horizons program. New Horizons offers contributions to groups of retired people to create projects of their own choosing and to undertake activities for the benefit of themselves and others in the community. The accent is on local needs and interests as seen by these older people.

The Ontario government has announced a province-wide competition to encourage the design and construction of energy-efficient housing using passive solar energy features. The \$200,000 competition will be restricted to passive solar energy designs. A joint government-housing-association committee will choose up to 15 designs submitted by the builders.

The selected designs will be constructed by the builders, with the province picking up the extra costs of the passive solar features and additional energy-conserving features.

Peter Monod of Banff, Alberta retained his Canadian men's giant-slam championship at Marmott Basin near Jasper, Alberta. Monod won with a combined time of one minute 58.61 seconds. Ann Blackburn of Chicoutimi, Quebec won both runs to finish first in the women's giant slalom with a combined time of two minutes 12.21 seconds.

Subsidies to families in the Federal Government's Assisted Home Ownership Program to reduce mortgage and tax payments to no more than 30 per cent of a family's income, have been announced by Public Works Minister Paul Cosgrove. The maximum assistance available this year will be \$1,200 a family; about 2,000 individuals or families are expected to qualify.

Spar Aerospace Limited of Toronto will receive a \$63.6 million (U.S.) contract from the U.S. space agency for construction of three manipulator cranes to be used on space shuttles. The contract arises from a 1975 agreement between the Canadian Government and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, under which Canada is giving NASA a jointed arm-like crane for use on the *Columbia*, the first U.S. shuttle orbiter scheduled to be launched next winter. In return, NASA agreed to buy similar manipulator cranes for each of its three other planned orbiters from Canadian Commercial Corporation, a Canadian Government company. That contract will be subcontracted to Spar Aerospace as prime contractor.

Ray Lawson, former lieutenant-governor of Ontario, died recently at the age of 93. Mr. Lawson, a native of London, Ontario, was appointed lieutenant-governor in 1946 and served three two-year terms.

The Alberta government is assisting the Province of Hokkaido in Japan to promote the development of curling as a winter recreation. Wally Ursuliak, a world curling champion from Edmonton, travelled to Japan to organize a four-week tour of curling clinics and demonstrations to introduce the game to interested Japanese. Mr. Ursuliak visited Japan at the request of Naghiro Dogakinai, Governor of Hokkaido.

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