

News briefs

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has revoked unemployment insurance regulation 16 making the employment of thousands of agricultural workers insurable for unemployment insurance. Starting January 1, 1983, agricultural workers will be subject to the same insurability rules as all other workers in Canada.

Canadian and US experts on the reform of regulation exchanged views at a recent two-day conference held in Toronto. Sponsored by the Economic Council of Canada, The Institute for Research on Public Policy, and The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, the conference attracted over 180 delegates from government, universities, and the private sector across North America.

The Canadian Wheat Board has announced the sale of an additional 300 000 tonnes of wheat to China. The new sale is in addition to two contracts already concluded, bringing total sales to China for the first half of the shipping season to 2.5 million tonnes.

AMCA International Limited of Montreal has acquired 62 per cent of the 10.5-million shares outstanding of Giddings and Lewis Incorporated of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and has succeeded in buying into the US machine tool industry. Financing for the purchase of Giddings, a manufacturer of numerically controlled machine tools, came partly from a \$225-million line of credit arranged with a consortium of US and Canadian banks.

Summer travel by Canadian residents within Canada has remained relatively stable over the last four years (1978-81), according to a Canadian Government Office of Tourism travel survey. The total number of person-trips made within Canada by Canadians increased marginally from 38.9 million in 1978 to 39.4 million in 1981 with a high of 39.9 million person-trips in 1980. A person-trip is defined as a domestic trip by one person to a destination 80 kilometres or more from home.

Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation has completed an agreement with the Tanzanian government to provide assistance with oil and gas exploration in that country. Under the contract terms, the corporation will drill an offshore well 45 kilometres southeast of Dar Es Salaam beginning in December, after the Canadian drilling season, using the Canadian-contracted drillship *Pèlerin*.



The federal government has cleared the way for the start of short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) air services in the Toronto-Montreal-Ottawa triangle using DASH 7 aircraft. Subject to meeting Canadian Transport Commission licensing requirements, Canavia Transit Incorporated and City Center Airways Limited have indicated that service on the Toronto-Ottawa route could start as early as next spring. The initial service will use three, 50-passenger, DASH 7s, with 12 flights daily from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. between Ottawa and Toronto Island Airport. It is anticipated that service to Montreal from Toronto and Ottawa would start in the summer of 1984, following restoration of the Montreal Stollport and the purchase of five more DASH 7 aircraft. The DASH 7 is the quietest commercial airliner in service today and can land within 600 metres on runways now used by jet aircraft requiring almost five times that length.

The Alberta government is using money from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund to subsidize mortgage payments of an estimated 225 000 households to an effective rate of 12.5 per cent for two years, retroactive to September 1. The program will cover existing mortgages and mortgage renewals. Farmers and small businesses will have loans subsidized to an effective rate of 14.5 per cent for two years, retroactive to March.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has offered to play a co-ordinating role in forming a "6 and 5" action committee for small business. The committee will encourage small business to support the Canadian government's 6 and 5 per cent restraint program (see *Canada Weekly* dated July 14, 1982). Such a committee was discussed at a meeting between five federal Cabinet ministers and 25 small business representatives held in Ottawa in August.

The Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade recently sponsored an exhibit at the eighty-first American Hospital Association annual convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Four Ontario health-care companies displayed a range of products from disposable hospital items to micro-computer systems used in medical diagnosis and prognosis.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has announced that the US government has "responded well" to a Canadian petition to officially declare that Canadian low erucic acid rapeseed oil be recognized for sale as human food in that country. As a result, the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has published notice of the Canadian petition in the US Federal Register. This is an important step in the approval-for-use process for this product, known as canola oil in Canada.

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