

## Drilling regulations approved

Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie and Northern Affairs Minister Hugh Faulkner recently announced the approval of new regulations to govern the drilling for oil and gas on lands under federal jurisdiction. *Canada Oil and Gas Drilling Regulations* specify the standards for such diverse items as electrical and firefighting equipment, alarm systems, communications, standby craft, casing design and blowout-prevention equipment.

In the case of offshore drilling units the regulations set out safety and life-saving equipment requirements including survival craft, life rafts and life-jackets and the mandatory procedures for operation of diving equipment.

The provisions have been used as conditions of approval for current drilling programs and for the most part, are already being followed by oil companies in their operations.

The resource management and conservation branch of Energy, Mines and Resources and the northern non-renewable resources branch of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs are the two agencies responsible for administering the regulations, which will be published in the *Canada Gazette*.

## News briefs

Canada has recognized the provisional government of Iran. Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, who made the announcement on February 16, also expressed confidence that the good relations Canada enjoys with Iran would continue to develop.

China has awarded a contract worth \$69 million to Control Data Canada Ltd. of Mississauga for 12 Canadian-designed Cyber 170 series computer systems.

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Canada has agreed to import oil from Mexico, aiming at shipments of about 100,000 barrels a day by the latter part of 1980 at a total cost of about \$500 million a year, Energy Minister Gillespie has announced.

**Fisheries and Oceans Minister** Roméo LeBlanc may establish one or more mutual insurance companies run by fishermen, either on a national or regional basis, to replace the Fishing Vessel Insurance Plan, run by his department.

**The Queen Mother** has accepted an invitation to visit Nova Scotia this summer. Although few details of the trip are known at the moment, Premier John Buchanan said the Queen Mother would take part in the opening of the International Gathering of the Clans on June 28, the first time the gathering has been held in Canada.

**Premier Peter Lougheed** of Alberta has called an election for March 14. At dissolution, the Progressive Conservatives held 69 of the 75 seats in the provincial legislature, the Social Credit Party four, the New Democrats one, and one seat was held by an Independent. There will be 79 seats in the new House.

**The Canadian dollar** closed at 83.77 cents (U.S.) on February 14, in moderate trading in the North American inter-bank wholesale market.

**Toronto Stock Exchange prices** rose to the second highest levels in history on February 14, as a rally continued for a fifth successive session. Oil and gas led the way with gains ranging up to \$2.75 a share, with hopes for increased crude oil shipments to the U.S.

**British Columbia Telephone Co.** of Burnaby, B.C., plans to spend more than \$284 million this year on capital construction projects to maintain and improve its telephone system.

**A bill establishing an independent commissioner** with wide powers to investigate air accidents, as well as mishaps on railways, pipelines and other areas of federal jurisdiction, was introduced in the House of Commons on February 14.

**The target for Alaska gas** to begin moving through Canada to the lower 48 states has been put back until middle or late 1984 from a previous estimate of late 1983 or early 1984, according to the chairman of Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company. During the delay, costs will increase at a rate of \$3 million a day.

**Macao and Thailand** have agreed to limit exports of clothing to Canada for

three years retroactive to January 1, Industry, Trade and Commerce has announced.

**Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate** remained at 8.1 per cent in January, unchanged from the December figure. The rate in January 1978 was 8.3 per cent. The employment/population ratio reached a new high at 58.3 per cent, up from 57.9 per cent in December.

**The National Energy Board** has approved shipments of about 1 million barrels of crude oil to the U.S. under an exchange arrangement to reduce Canadian east coast dependency on Iranian oil.

**The British Columbia government** will end the current fiscal year with a surplus of about \$145 million.

**Current projections in Manitoba** indicate a combined provincial deficit at the end of the fiscal year of \$129.8 million, down \$1.4 million from last autumn's projection, but more than \$9.5 million above the original projected deficit of \$120.1 million.

**According to an executive recruiting company**, there has been a declining trend over the past three years in the percentage of job searches for new management jobs, compared with replacement positions.

**Wage settlements** in major collective agreements in private industry grew to an average annual rate of 8.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year. The rate for civil servants was 7 per cent.

**Canada will need 23,000 fewer high school teachers** by 1990, according to a federal study released on February 14. It shows that 72,400 secondary teachers will be needed in 1990 to maintain an average ratio of 17.7 students to one teacher — the same pupil-teacher ration that required 95,300 teachers in 1977.

**Manitoba Health Minister Sherman** has announced new welfare regulations which will reduce payments to the elderly by as much as \$114 per month. Under the new rules, welfare payments to the elderly will increase the same as general increases for all welfare recipients.

**An 18-year-old deaf speed skater**, Farley Kellett, from Saskatoon, and 16-year-old Sylvie Daigle of Sherbrooke, Quebec, were the first gold medal winners at the Canada Winter Games in Brandon, Manitoba on February 13. Kellett, who followed up with victory in the men's 500-metre final, watches the smoke from the starter's gun as his cue to start racing.