

News briefs

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced that a study on the effects of environmental contaminants on the health of the St. Regis Reserve residents has been approved by Treasury Board. This complex scientific study is being conducted by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York with the assistance of Canadian colleagues. The study will take approximately 20 months and cost a maximum \$1.6 million.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the conclusion of a \$265,000 (Cdn.) financing agreement to support the sale of a pulp dryer conveying system and components by A.H. Lundberg Equipment Limited of Richmond, British Columbia, to Companhia de Celulose do Caima, S.A.R.L. of Lisbon, Portugal. The equipment will increase the operating speed and drying capacity of the pulp dryer conveying operation at Caima's Constancia mill.

The British Columbia government will begin a provincial dental care program January 1. Under the program, children 14 years of age and under will be the prime beneficiaries of the plan, receiving an annual \$32 preventive-care package. The government will pay for 50 per cent of all other services the children require, to a maximum of \$700. The plan will also pay 50 per cent of all senior citizens' bills, including dentures and denture repairs.

Canada's Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced details of the unemployment insurance premium rates for 1981. Effective January 1, 1981, employees will pay \$1.80 in premiums for each \$100 of their weekly insurable earnings, up 33 per cent from \$1.35 for each \$100 in 1980. Employers will pay a basic premium of

\$2.52/\$100 of each employee's insurable earnings, up from \$1.89/\$100 in 1980.

Alberta's natural resources earned \$4.6 billion last year, with more than 75 per cent of it in royalties from the oil and natural gas produced from Crown land. Figures contained in the annual report of the energy department show that from April 1979 to March 1980, oil companies paid the Alberta government \$1.8 billion in oil royalties and \$1.5 billion in gas royalties, a total of \$3.3 billion.

A Canadian Dow Jones survey of 151 companies showed that profits rose 5.9 per cent to \$2.02 billion in the third quarter from \$1.9 billion in the corresponding period of 1979. The same companies reported a profit increase of 6.7 per cent to \$2 billion in the second quarter and an increase of 16.4 per cent to \$6.3 billion in the nine-month period. The strongest sectors were oil and gas and manufacturing. Declining sectors included steels, forest products and mining.

Pratt and Whitney Aircraft of Canada Limited, Montreal, plans to spend about \$77 million over the next few years to expand and modernize production capacity for new lines of its PT-6 and PT-7 small turboprops and to cover production startup costs. When the program is completed in 1984, about 500 new jobs will have been created at its main Longueuil plant near Montreal, and at its flight and testing operations at nearby St. Hubert.

G. Emmett Cardinal Carter, Roman Catholic archbishop of Toronto, has been re-elected to the central council of the World Synod of Bishops, one of only three bishops from all of the Americas elected to the 12-member group. The

council is responsible for carrying out the work of the synod.

Ontario Treasurer Frank Miller has announced the removal of the 7 per cent sales tax on home furniture, major household appliances and residential building materials and offered a sales tax rebate of up to \$700 on the purchase of new light trucks and vans. In a provincial mini-budget on November 13, he also announced creation of a Board of Industrial Leadership and Development to direct the spending of \$750 million in a five-year plan of economic recovery.

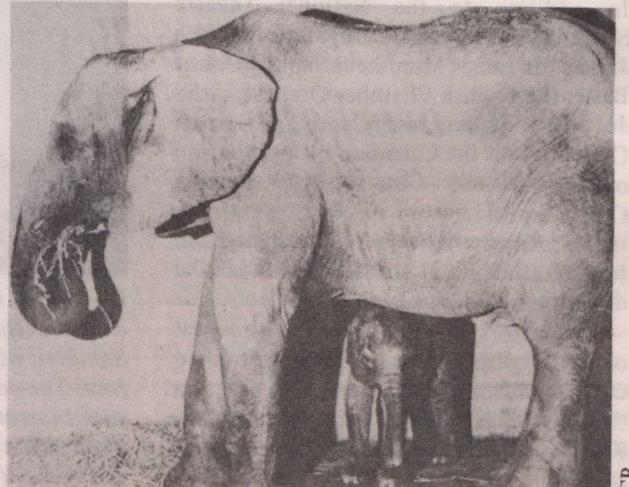
Eighteen grants totalling \$261,650 have been awarded by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The grants are intended to promote research into the social, economic, physical, environmental, legislative and administrative aspects of housing.

SATRO 25, the last of three steel-hulled supply ships constructed in Vancouver for Brazil's Sociedade Auxiliar da Industria de Petroleo Ltda (SATRO) was launched recently in that city. Under the contract, awarded just over a year ago, Bel-Aire Shipyard constructed two ships and Vancouver Shipyards one. The three 180-foot vessels will be chartered to Petrobrás, Brazil's national oil corporation, and will be used to supply the offshore oil industry.

Terry Fox, the one-legged runner who attempted to run across Canada in aid of cancer research has received the Order of the Dogwood — British Columbia's highest honour. He was presented with the award by Premier Bill Bennett in a ceremony at his home in Port Coquitlam near Vancouver.

She ain't heavy, she's my mother

The first African elephant calf born in Canada appears to be trying to lift a little more than it can carry. In fact, the camera-shy youngster is trying to avoid attention as it peeks out from beneath its mother, ten-year-old Tequila, at Metro Toronto Zoo. The calf, whose sex has yet to be determined, will be ready for public viewing in the spring.



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