

## News briefs

External Affairs Minister Don Jamieson has pledged that Canada would do whatever it could to diminish any hardship created in the United States in the event of a cut in Iranian oil supplies. Although he said he was not sure that a direct exchange of oil with the U.S. was the answer, he assured the House of Commons that Canada "would not allow Americans to freeze in the dark".

Canada's first solar-heated school was officially opened in early February in St. Catharines, Ontario. Much of the seven-classroom building is below ground level to conserve heat.

Ontario Treasurer Frank Miller announced financial aid to the pulp and paper industry recently. The provincial government is responding to a task force study that recommended spending \$27 million a year for seven years.

Air Canada plans to spend about \$300 million a year over the next ten years on new aircraft, Claude Taylor, president and chief executive officer, said recently.

Toronto's first bilingual telephone directory will be distributed in April, a Bell Canada spokesman says. The directory's introductory pages will be in French as well as English, in response to the growing number of *francophones* in Toronto. Other Ontario cities with large French-speaking populations, including Welland, Sudbury and Cornwall, already have bilingual directories. The new service will increase the size of the directory by 17 pages.

The University of British Columbia says it will be the first university in Canada to offer an undergraduate degree in oceanography. The school has decided to change the Institute of Oceanography, established 30 years ago in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, to a department in the Faculty of Science.

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After-tax profits of Canadian industrial corporations in the third quarter of 1978 totalled \$3.42 billion, up 32.3 per cent from those reported a year earlier.

Completion of the Alaska part of the \$11-billion-plus Alaska Highway gas pipeline project will be delayed at least another six months because of continued delays in obtaining U.S. government and regulatory decisions. Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. of Salt Lake City, the consortium responsible for the Alaskan portion of the project, has confirmed that the earliest the section can be completed is in 1984.

The Soviet Union has negotiated to buy 390,000 metric tons of Canadian flour for shipment to Cuba this year, an increase over the 361,000 tons of last year.

Three-quarters of a cup of bran every day protects against gallstones made of cholesterol, two doctors told the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada recently. Their tests showed that bran cereal added to the diets of nine people with gallstones, greatly reduced the amount of cholesterol in their bile. Dr. C.N. Williams of Dalhousie University at Halifax said a drug, chenodeoxycholic acid, which dissolves cholesterol gallstones in a high proportion of patients, would be on the market after extensive clinical trials, and that dietary changes might prevent the formation of new stones.

William Jaffe, professor of economics at Toronto's York University, has been appointed to the Legion of Honour of France, reports Canadian Press. Dr. Jaffe, a noted historian of economic theory, will receive the medal later this year in recognition of his lifelong study and translation of the work of French economist Leon Walras. Upon learning of the award for his scholarly contribution to French culture, 80-year-old Dr. Jaffe remarked: "These things are very comforting for an old man."

The province of Alberta had a budget surplus of \$377.2 million in the first half of the 1978-79 fiscal year. In the same period of 1977-78, the government had a \$369.8-million surplus.

Canadians will deposit a record \$2.9 billion in Registered Retirement Savings Program contributions for the 1978 tax year, according to projections by the Royal Trust Company of Montreal. Estimates are for the year ending March 1, 1979.

A \$62-million Young Canada Works Program is expected to create an estimated 35,000 jobs for students during next summer, says Employment and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen. During 1978, Young Canada Works funded 5,014 projects across the country and created more than 27,500 jobs.

The Export Development Corporation recently approved loans, surety and export credits insurance as well as foreign investment guarantees totalling \$51.55 million to support prospective export sales of \$130.86 million to eight countries: Algeria, Barbados, Czechoslovakia, Israel, Malta, Saudi Arabia, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia. The transactions involve such goods and services as mining equipment, forest products, telephone equipment and installation, petrochemical valves, locomotives, pulp mill equipment, trailers, mobile homes and portable buildings.

A new economic policy group, the Canadian Institute for Economic Policy, headed by former Finance Minister Walter Gordon and with close links to the Science Council of Canada, has been established to promote policies of industrial self-reliance in Canada.

Canada will participate in the first meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and of non-OPEC oil-producing countries to be held in London, England in March. Likely topics are the short- and long-term world oil supply and demand prospects, and the need for and likelihood of developing alternative energy supplies, especially in the less developed countries lacking any domestic oil. Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie will represent Canada at the meetings.

Ontario's "Big Thunder International Meet", scheduled for February 24-25 is attracting world class skiers during what is probably North America's biggest annual international ski jumping tournament. March 11 and 12 are the dates set for this year's Thunder Bay Open, for both junior and senior skiers.

Horses drawing carriages through the streets of Quebec City's old quarter are going to wear "diapers", city council has decided. A new bylaw will require all owners of carriages to attach the diapers — made of glass-fibre to catch the dung — to the harnesses of their horses. City manager Jacques Perreault, who proposed the measure to help clean up the streets in the city's tourist area, said he got the idea during a recent trip to New Orleans.