

Canada Weekly

Ottawa
Canada

Volume 12, No. 4
January 25, 1984

New measures to reduce lead content
in gasoline, 1

Agreement on space technology, 3

Radar system helps increase safety, 3

Donation helps fight hunger, 3

Manitoba contest winner visits United
Nations, 3

The great John A. — a practical dreamer
who built a nation, 4

Ottawa and The Hague become twin
cities, 5

Alarm systems ringing the bell in
Owen Sound, 6

Coal to Japan, 6

Canada-US co-operation in communica-
tions for rural areas, 6

News of the arts — photographs, award, 7

Stand-in for Santa's reindeer waits in the
wings for Christmas début, 8

News briefs, 8

New measures to reduce lead content in gasoline

Environment Minister Charles Caccia has recently announced his decision to proceed with a reduction in the lead content of gasoline from the existing level of 0.77 gram a litre to a standard of 0.29 gram a litre by January 1, 1987.

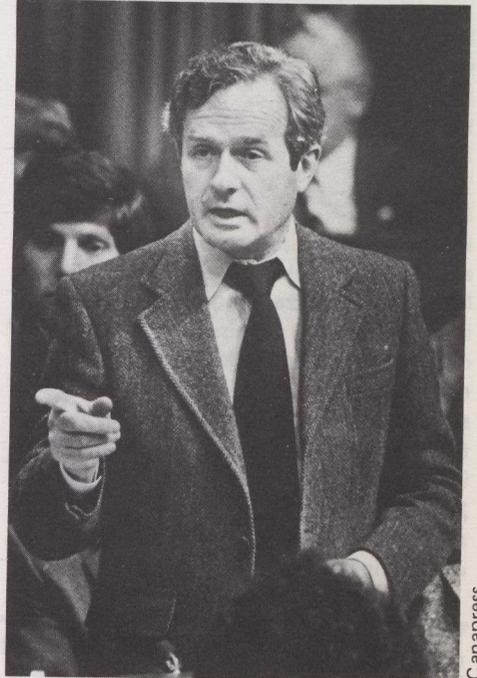
Mr. Caccia also announced that he will soon be creating an independent advisory committee to assess and report on all sources of lead in the environment. This committee will give advice on the possible need to introduce additional measures to reduce any emissions of lead including sources other than automobiles.

"In addition, the advisory committee will be asked to review trends in environmental quality, human health data and the socio-economic effects resulting from the application of the new lead level in gasoline. The review would produce a useful comparison between the actual and the widely-varied claims and counter claims that have made this a difficult decision," Mr. Caccia said.

The minister said that he also expects this committee to look closely at data regarding blood-lead levels, especially new information as it becomes available and in particular blood-lead level data on children.

"After reviewing all the material submitted on this issue I think that my decision represents a prudent approach between the health implications of continuing automobile lead emissions and recognition of the economic implications," said Mr. Caccia. "This measure will result in reductions of over 60 per cent from 1982 levels of 7 000 tonnes a year and represents an over-all reduction of close to 80 per cent from the pre-regulation level of 12 800 tonnes per year (1972). The timing involved takes into consideration the estimated capital investment required by industry to design and construct the necessary facilities that would be needed to reach the 0.29 gram a litre standard by January 1, 1987."

Even the most expensive forecast would not give rise to more than two-



Charles Caccia

Canapress

tenths of a cent a litre in additional refining costs for the production of leaded gasoline in 1987. As far as the average car owner using leaded gas is concerned, this would not increase his operating costs more than 15 cents a week starting three years from now.

Mr. Caccia added that the decision to reduce the lead content of gasoline to 0.29 gram a litre will in no way inflict any hardship on owners of cars and trucks designed to run on leaded gasoline. The level of lead in gasoline that will come into effect in 1987 will meet the manufacturer's specifications for all vehicles and gasoline powered machines available in Canada.

A historical perspective

Historically, lead was one of the first metals to be widely used by man. In the last 1 000 years, the global annual lead production has increased from 10 000 tonnes to more than 4 million tonnes today. It is used in batteries, as an "anti-



External Affairs
Canada

Affaires extérieures
Canada