

THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN BE DONE CANADIAN FIRM HELPS BUILD ASSAM PIPELINE IN SINGLE SEASON

MAY 1977 marked the successful completion of one stage in India's rush to become self-sufficient in oil. In Bongaigaon in Assam, the Indo-Canadian team of Engineering Projects India (EPI) and Majestic-Wiley Limited handed over a 212 km pipeline to Oil India Limited—and it was ready within 15 days of the originally scheduled deadline.

This may not seem remarkable in itself, but behind this simple ceremony lay a 6 months race against time, against rains and against the hilly terrain. Only by close cooperation between the Indian and Canadian partners on the job were the problems overcome.

Oil India wanted to bring oil from Jorhat to feed the refinery and petro-chemical complex at Bongaigaon; but they wanted the job done in one field season which most contractors thought impossible. Majestic Wiley, realising the difficulties, made their proposal to Oil India and were selected as engineering consultants for the project in tandem with EPI. A total of 60 Canadian professionals lived in Assam for the period working with counterpart Indian engineers and the locally employed crew. The technology of laying the pipeline was new to the labourers, but they were soon laying pipe at the rate of nearly 3 kms a day—the same speed attained by skilled crews overseas. As a result, the work force of over a 1000 crew and engineers completed the Rs. 40 crore project on time and oil will begin to flow to the Bongaigaon refinery in September this year, helping to reduce India's expenditure of foreign exchange for imported fuels.

The Indo-Canadian approach worked well in Assam. The Majestic Wiley look forward to assisting Oil India in future projects—and perhaps to proving again that the impossible can be done.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CANADA

(Continued from page 8)

conciliation. If this fails, enquiries are conducted by tribunals or boards appointed by the Commission at which all parties are given the opportunity to present evidence. Tribunals are empowered to issue orders to resolve disputes such as job reinstatement or payment for loss of wages or other damages. Court action can generally be taken to enforce the orders if necessary or to appeal the orders of tribunals or boards.

Most provinces have also created the office of Ombudsman to investigate complaints made against branches or agencies of the provincial governments. In addition, various provincial departments and Human Rights Commissions are mounting intensified programmes of public education through the media and are providing discussion material to

interested groups. Community relations programmes are being expanded to deal with present and potential problem areas and increased cooperation is being established between minority groups and police forces to combat against social discrimination.

As a country made up of people of diverse origins, including the indigenous American Indian and Inuit (Eskimo) people and immigrants drawn from every continent, it is not surprising that from time to time incidents and complaints of some form of social discrimination occur in Canada. However, as is evident from the volume of legislation in force and the various mechanisms instituted to protect human rights, Canadians as a people neither condone acts of discrimination nor are apathetic towards the protection of individual rights.