

### Canadian Football League tries to block new organization

The Canadian Football League (CFL), faced with the challenge of a new professional league, is battling to protect its home ground. A new organization, known as the World Football League (WFL), has granted a franchise to a Toronto group and a number of others to groups in United States cities. The WFL plans to launch its first schedule in mid-summer.

The CFL, concerned with the threat of a franchise from a rival league in Toronto, has applied pressure to block it from functioning. This has taken the form of pressure on John Bassett, owner of the Toronto Argonauts in the CFL. The CFL at its annual meeting in Toronto in late February decided that Mr. Bassett was in effect, guilty of a conflict of interest because his son, John F. Bassett, was a principal figure in the organization and ownership of the proposed new Toronto entry in the WFL, the Toronto Northmen. The CFL noted that Mr. Bassett Sr. had the right to prevent the WFL entry from using the Canadian National Exhibition stadium for its home games but had *not* done so.

Under pressure from the CFL, Mr. Bassett Sr. has now offered to dispose of his Argo franchise for \$3.3 million

and the CFL has undertaken to attempt to find a buyer.

Meanwhile, National Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde, whose Department has federal responsibility for sport in Canada, said in a speech in Regina that the Federal Government would do everything in its power to bar the WFL entry from Toronto because the maintenance of the viability of the Canadian Football League was an important part of the Canadian identity. Mr. Lalonde urged the CFL to consider expansion in Canadian cities — in the Maritimes, in Quebec and Ontario.

The CFL has received a bid for a new Canadian franchise from a group in London, Ontario and is awaiting further information from the London organization before proceeding. The London group has said it would be ready to enter a team in the CFL for the 1975-76 season.

In some quarters, there is concern about admitting the London entry because it might dilute the quality of CFL football at a time when it faces competition from the rival WFL, but other pressures may dictate a favourable response to the London bid. (M.G.)

### Hawaii telescope project: Canada to design observatory

Canada, France and Hawaii are joining their scientific and technical forces to build an observatory that will house the world's second largest telescope (*see Canada Weekly dated June 20, 1973.*) Active Canadian participation in the project was announced recently, when Jean-Pierre Goyer, Minister of Supply and Services, stated that a contract valued at \$800,000 had been awarded to Surveyer, Nenninger & Chênevert Inc. of Montreal, one of Canada's largest consulting engineering organizations.

The contract, placed on behalf of the National Research Council of Canada, calls for the design and construction-management of the buildings and dome for an astronomical observatory on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, which will be built at an elevation of 14,000 feet on land provided by the University of Hawaii.

The National Research Council and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) of France have entered into an agreement with the University of Hawaii to form a non-profit corporation to operate the observatory. Canada and France will share equally in the cost of the building, the telescope and other scientific installations. The University of Hawaii will provide site services, offices and dormitory facilities. The University of Hawaii will use 15 per cent of the observing time, with Canada and France sharing the balance.

The telescope enclosure will consist of a rotating hemispherical dome about 100 feet in diameter, weighing about 600 tons and a building containing the facilities required for the operation and maintenance of the telescope.

The project is expected to be finished by the end of 1977.

### Foreign investment agreement with Trinidad and Tobago

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, announced recently the signature of an agreement on Foreign Investment Insurance between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. The final text, in the form of an Exchange of Notes, was signed on February 8, 1974 in Port of Spain by the High Commissioner, Mr. David Reece, for the Government of Canada and by the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Eric Williams, for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

### Vancouver airport expansion

A full scale modification and renovation program, costing \$24,714,000 for the passenger terminal at Vancouver International Airport has been announced by Transport Minister Jean Marchand.

The major facelift for the gateway terminal is directly related to the sharp increase in passenger traffic — 3,170,000 in 1972 and over 3,800,000 during 1973. Current estimates indicate passenger volume at close to six million by 1979 and 1980.

At least six new gate positions to serve the needs of the new, wide-bodied jet aircraft acquired by the major airlines, such as CP Air 747s, will be built. Customs and immigration services will be relocated, airline ticket counters will be enlarged, additional dining room facilities will be available and the passenger security area will be expanded at both ends of the terminal.

To minimize inconvenience to the public, the entire program will be phased over four to five years and a project team will be based on the airport to co-ordinate the work and the planning.

In addition to the internal modifications and renovations, provisions are made for outside apron construction. This will provide more space for the larger jets to manoeuvre into the new gate positions.

Because of the reshuffling of some services, more space will be made available to ground level for passengers and for six baggage carousels to serve arriving domestic flights.