

EFFECTS BEING FELT

The retail monitoring system has already resulted in the halting of some price increases and, more important, it has resulted in manufacturers, processors, supermarket, department, discount and variety stores being much more aware that any price increase which is to be passed along to consumers must be clearly within the guide-lines pertaining to their particular segment of industry.

While obviously the Price and Incomes Commission cannot take the credit for the reduction in the consumer price index for May, its activities are making an important contribution to restraining price and profit margins. The Commission is aware that many Canadian firms are absorbing at least a part of cost increases in order to meet the Commission's criteria and to restrain price increases. The Commission is aware of such instances in the food products industries, as well as in a variety of other fields such as milk, luggage, dyestuffs, stoves, washing machines, glass containers, certain chemicals and steel products, copper, aluminum, plastics and cold storage. Even the price of marine charts issued by the Federal Government has been reduced to conform with the restraint program - to \$1 from \$2.

At present, detailed price reviews are under way for a wide variety of products, including bread, milk, processed foods, edible oils, rubber tires, cement, tin containers, air fares, freight rates, copper, construction costs, coffee, razor blades, fine papers, duplicating services and aviation fuels. Detailed reviews have been completed and made public for steel products, including tin plate and glass containers. Approximately 40 other reviews of varying complexity have also been completed since March 1 of this year.

The true impact of this kind of program cannot be measured by statistics, reviews or studies or price increases. The success of the program should be evaluated in terms of the price increases which have not taken place or which have been smaller than they would have been without the criteria. Its success is that Canadian industry appears to be accepting and applying the price-restraint criteria to their pricing policies for 1970 and this should in turn be reflected in a slowing down in the rate of price increases.

MACHINE MAINTENANCE AWARD

The Canadian Government Printing Bureau of the Department of Supply and Services was recently honoured as a winner in the 1970 maintenance awards program of the McGraw-Hill Publication Company in Chicago. This is the second year in a row that the Queen's Printer has been a winner in this annual competition.

Open to all production plants in the United States and Canada, the competition is meant to encourage and recognize individual excellence and outstanding company efforts in improving plant main-

tenance and engineering performance.

The Canadian Government Printing Bureau was a winner in the "Corrective Maintenance on Equipment" category and was cited for "a programmed machine rebuilding plan that netted \$300,000 in savings".

Recognizing that bindery equipment had changed little over the years and that new machines would not offer improved efficiency, plant-maintenance personnel devised a machine rebuilding program to be used at the Bureau. Under the system, old machines are not only repaired, but important safety and automatic features are devised and installed. Parts for older machines, which are no longer being made, are manufactured in the plant machine shop. Printing Bureau personnel have perfected the rebuilding procedure to such an extent that a machine under repair is only out of action for a span of about seven weeks, whereas a four-month period is customary to complete work of this nature.

FRANCE-CANADA JOINT COMMISSION

On July 2, the Franco-Canadian Joint Commission, established under the 1965 Franco-Canadian Cultural Agreement, completed the work of its fourth session in Ottawa. The Commission meets alternately in Paris and Ottawa to study progress in artistic, cultural, university, scientific and technical exchanges between the two countries.

The French delegation was led by Mr. Paul Fouchet, Minister Plenipotentiary and Director-General of Cultural, Scientific and Technical Relations of the French Foreign Ministry. Mr. André Bissonnette, Assistant Under-Secretary of State at the Department of External Affairs, chaired the Canadian delegation.

Various measures were arranged in connection with the current development of bilingualism in Canada, in particular increased assistance from France in the matter of language-training.

In the area of artistic exchanges (plastic arts, theatre and music) many suggestions were made, among which were a Canadian tour by the troupe headed by Jean-Louis Barrault and Madeleine Renaud, a showing in France of the exhibition Borduas and the Automatists and a tour by the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde.

Flexible procedures have been designed for exchanges of individuals, especially those involving young people, and these should permit fulfilment of the increasing variety of demands in this field. The scholarship program was considered satisfactory and will be maintained.

Finally, the Joint Commission noted with satisfaction the development of scientific exchanges and has indicated that, wherever this seems appropriate, efforts will be made to direct them towards genuine co-operation in fields of common interest.

The talks have led to concrete results and took place in a most friendly atmosphere.