

do, an agreement between U.S. labour groups and the BOC's. The U.S. Administration has opposed these provisions. The Embassy will continue to make representations as appropriate.

•The development of a new transportation policy for the next five years continues to be one of the important agenda items under consideration in both the House and the Senate. Reauthorization for surface transportation programs takes place every five years. The Senate Committee on Environment and Transportation has endorsed a bill that will face opposition from the Administration and will inevitably undergo significant changes on the floor of the Senate. The House Committee will be introducing a bill in the next few days. The Embassy continues to make representations to limit "Buy America" restrictions as the legislation develops.

•The Senate passed campaign finance reform legislation, including a provision prohibiting non-U.S. citizens from giving money to political action committees (PAC's). Since PAC's were already prohibited from accepting foreign contributions, this new bill effectively represents the status quo. A much more restrictive proposal by Senator Bentsen, that would have prohibited U.S. employees of foreign-owned companies from contributing to PAC's, failed to

gain sufficient support. The Senate's move recognizes the political rights of employees of foreign-owned companies operating in the United States. The bill, (S-3), faces uncertain prospects in the House, and a high probability of a Presidential veto.

•On a related matter, the Federal Elections Commission is expected to render in June a decision on a proposed rule to prohibit foreign-owned companies from organizing PAC's. The Commission is expected to reject the proposed rule.

•The House of Representatives approved a \$291 billion defence authorization bill. The bill would cut funding for certain major defence programs but does not appear to reduce overall procurement funding. Provisions to increase funding for research and development could have a positive long term impact on U.S. and Canadian industries. The bill is expected to be negotiated with the Senate later this summer in a House/Senate Conference.

•Senator Baucus introduced S.976, a comprehensive bill that would reauthorize the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the main legislation governing waste disposal in the United States. The bill covers waste reduction and disposal standards, and recycling. It would set targets for the use of recycled materials in products, notably

newsprint. The debate over RCRA reauthorization will likely extend to end of this session of Congress (fall 1992).

•Bills to implement the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Waste have been introduced in both the House and the Senate. These bills seek to impose various degrees of control over exports and imports of, principally, hazardous waste to and from the United States, including recyclable materials. One of the House bills (HR2358-Synar), contains measures that Canada considers intrusive, such as mandatory inspection of foreign waste treatment facilities by U.S. inspectors.

IN THE ADMINISTRATION

•Until April 30, the State Department had prevented U.S. television superstation carriers from transmitting into Canada. The State Department, which had concerns about Canada's copyright royalty regime (to provide compensation for the transmission of distant signals), is now satisfied. The Federal Communications Commission can now begin to remove existing conditions on the issuance of licenses.

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Need More Information?

Here is a list of Embassy officers following the developments described in this advisory.

The main Embassy phone number is: (202) 682-1740.

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Energy

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Margaret Martin, Counsellors,
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