

CANADA TO CLEAN ITS AIR

A major piece of legislation, a Clean Air Bill, for controlling air-pollution in Canada, was introduced in the House of Commons last month by Mr. Jack Davis, the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, the Minister designate of the new Department of the Environment.

"The clean-up of current air-pollution and the preservation of clean-air quality will have top priority in the new Department of the Environment," Mr. Davis said. "The Clean Air Bill will provide authority to the Federal Government to lead a co-operative federal-provincial attack on air-pollution. The economic cost of air-pollution in Canada, including health costs, housing and building maintenance, laundry and cleaning costs, etc., is estimated at \$1.5 billion annually."

The bill gives the Federal Government authority to set national air-quality objectives, national emission standards (where there is a significant danger to health or where international agreements on air-pollution control are involved), national emission guidelines to assist provinces and local governments in developing uniform regulations across Canada, and specific emission standards for all works, undertakings or businesses under federal legislative authority, as well as to regulate the composition of fuels that may be produced or imported into Canada.

It will enable the Federal Government to enter into agreements with individual provinces to combat air-pollution inside the province or in interprovincial problem areas. On the basis of such agreements, the Federal Government will have authority to set individual emission standards to ensure that national clean-air objectives are met, and will be empowered to take direct action in emergency situations.

PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTIONS

Penalties proposed in the bill can go as high as \$200,000 for contravening a national emission standard and up to \$5,000 a day for producing or importing prohibited fuels or contravening other requirements under the resulting act.

The national air-quality objectives, based on the degree of contamination, will be set in three ranges - "desirable", "acceptable" and "tolerable". Canada's long-term goal will be to bring air-quality within the "desirable" range.

The Clean Air Bill recognizes the need for monitoring air-quality throughout the country and provides for the strengthening of the current federal-provincial co-operative national air-sampling network.

Mr. Davis emphasized that discussions held with provincial governments had shown that many provinces were becoming very active in the control of air-pollution. There was also a general recognition of the need for Federal Government involvement in trans-boundary problems and in the establishing of monitoring networks, the fostering of research, and the setting of national objectives and standards.

STAMP HONOURS INSULIN DISCOVERY

Medical history was made in Canada in 1921 with the discovery of insulin by two medical scientists, Dr. Frederick G. Banting and Dr. Charles H. Best, who carried out their research in a laboratory at the University of Toronto Medical School. The fiftieth anniversary of their achievement will be marked with the issue today of a six-cent commemorative stamp.

The isolation of the insulin hormone is heralded as one of the great medical triumphs of the twentieth century. It increased to near normal the life-expectancy of millions of diabetics who would otherwise have succumbed to a debilitating condition in which the body is unable to use energy-giving sugars and other food materials.

The design for the stamp commemorating the discovery of insulin is taken from a still-life photograph by Mr. Ray Webber of Toronto. Commenting on the unique characteristics of the stamp's design, the Post Office Department's Design Advisory Committee said: "In this photograph, which we believe is a first in stamp design, Webber has taken the actual instruments and materials used by Banting and Best to create a still life of charm and beauty. It contains, moreover, a feeling about the human act of discovery and it puts the viewer in direct touch with the minds and the hands of the scientists themselves."

The red, blue and black stamp measures 24 mm by 40 mm. An order of 24 million is being printed by the British American Bank Note Company of Ottawa.



MENTAL HEALTH IN 1970

There were 63,527 patients registered in 263 reporting psychiatric in-patient facilities in Canada last year. This was 4 percent fewer than the 66,063 patients registered in 253 facilities in 1969. Over the past ten years, a 17 percent reduction has been brought about, largely by changes in the techniques of treatment and expanded use of out-patient facilities.

Admissions to in-patient facilities increased 8 per cent, to 104,904, in 1970 - 37 per cent to public psychiatric units, 35 per cent to public mental hospitals and 12 per cent to psychiatric hospitals.

The ratio of admissions to in-patients registered ("on books") at the end of the year rose to 1.65 in 1970 from 1.47 in 1969.