

Estimates of capital expenditures

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\$2,939 million estimated earlier and 11.4 percent above the \$2,914 million for 1977. The second largest advance is for the utilities group (\$219 million, 2.0 per cent) where the new total of \$10,987 million represents a gain of 17.3 percent over the figure for 1977. Strength was shown in electric power (\$79 million, 1.3 per cent), railway transportation (\$48 million, 7.8 per cent), water transport (\$43 million, 31.4 per cent), urban transport (\$28 million, 8.4 per cent), pipelines (\$25 million, 6.7 per cent), grain elevators (\$24 million, 32.5 per cent). Some reduction in the planned total is shown for air transport (\$40 million, -11 per cent). The communications group shows relatively minor changes at mid-year but at a level 10.1 percent above its performance in 1977.

The preceding projected increase in manufacturing of 4.8 percent over the 1977 figure is now revised to 8.3 per cent for a new total of \$6,503 million. Most industries of this sector show further increases, the largest being in chemicals and chemical products, which also includes the manufacture of heavy water (\$34 million, 2.4 per cent). The other industries are as follows: metal fabricating (\$34 million, 16.0 per cent), food and beverages (\$31 million, 5.9 per cent), non-metallic mineral products (\$28 million, 11.1 per cent), wood products (\$20 million, 7.3 per cent).

Commerce

In the trade, finance, commercial group more strength is indicated for 1978 than was expected earlier in the year. Further gains in capital spending plans of real estate developers, lessors of machinery and equipment, and of trade contribute to most of the increase of \$334 million (6.3 per cent) to a new group total of

\$5,616 million. The new level is now up 12.4 percent over the \$4,996 million in 1977.

In the primary industries group, the declines for iron mining and for copper-gold-silver widen the decrease of the metal mines group where the new total of \$553 million is 40.6 percent below the \$932 million in 1977, following completion of major development work last year. The total for the non-metal mines group is now \$520 million, up \$36 million from the first estimate for 1978 and up \$52 million or 11.2 per cent from the \$468 million in 1977. Further marginal strength

News briefs

Premier Gerald Regan says he expects high power rates and Nova Scotia's economy to be the main issues in the provincial election he has called for September 19.

Canada's 50-year-old civil aeronautics legislation affecting all general and commercial aviation will undergo revision, Transport Minister Otto Lang announced recently. Recommendations for clear, easily enforced aviation requirements will evolve from the work of a seven-member Aeronautics Act Task Force now reviewing the act, air regulations, air navigation orders and directives. In addition it will make recommendations respecting the work relationships between Transport Canada's air administration, the RCMP, Department of Justice, Canadian Transport Commission and other interested organizations.

Léo Cadieux, Minister of National Defence from 1967 to 1970, has been appointed chairman of the Special Advisory Board established under Section 41 of the new Immigration Act. The Board will examine reports provided by Employment and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen and Solicitor-General Jean-Jacques Blais which, in their opinion, place "permanent residents" (immigrants who have not become Canadian citizens) in an inadmissible class on the grounds of subversive, criminal or terrorist activities. It will then recommend to Cabinet, which makes the final decision, whether or not the persons should be deported.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), which employs 6,000 people at sites across Canada, will be reorganized into a number of quasi-autonomous units

for petroleum and gas results in a new 1978 total of \$2,750 million for an increase of \$113 million or 4.3 percent over the \$2,636 million expended in 1977.

In the social capital group, planned capital spending for 1978 by all three levels of government is increased at mid-year by \$225 million (3.8 per cent) to a new total of \$6,166 million, 7.9 percent above the 1977 total of \$5,713 million. The addition to the total for institutions (\$24 million, 1.6 per cent) raise the year-over-year increase to 5.8 per cent at the new level of \$1,576 million compared with \$1,490 million last year.

each of which will specialize in different areas of nuclear development under the general direction of the Ottawa office. AECL will become a management company controlling four operating units responsible for research and development, engineering, heavy water production and the manufacture and sale of radiation equipment and radioisotopes.

Preliminary crime figures for 1977 show declines from 1976 national rates per 100,000 population for total crimes of violence (-1.8 per cent) and property crimes (-1.3 per cent) while the rate for all offences under the Criminal Code remained constant.

Canadian farmers' cash receipts from farming operations totalled \$5.68 billion in the 1978 first half, up 15.3 per cent from \$4.88 billion a year earlier, Statistics Canada reports. The figures cover all provinces except Newfoundland, which has little farming. Total receipts include cash intake from the sale of farm products, Canadian Wheat Board participation payments on previous years' grain crops, cash advances on farm-stored grains in Western Canada, and deficiency payments by the Agricultural Stabilization Board. No deduction is made for the cost incurred by farmers in the production of commodities.

Canadian National Railways reports a net income of \$61.2 million for the first half of 1978, compared with \$5.2 million in the corresponding period in 1977.

The Quebec government has announced a \$144-million anti-pollution program to assist large municipalities in the construction of sewage treatment plants and drain networks. The provincial government hopes the program will create 4,700 new jobs.

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