

## ONTARIO TIGHTENS TRAFFIC LAWS

All used cars sold in Ontario will be subject to stringent inspection for mechanical fitness under one of 26 measures introduced as amendments to the Highway Traffic Act and passed recently in the provincial legislature.

The Ontario Minister of Transport, Mr. Irwin Haskett, who proposed the amendments, noted that such inspections had been required for all used cars sold by dealers since last year. They will now be required for all cars sold privately. About 600,000 used cars are sold annually in Ontario.

Mr. Haskett explained that a certificate of mechanical fitness would have to be produced when a vehicle was registered at the time of transfer of ownership. Alternatively, the car's licence plates would have to be surrendered and the purchaser would be required to obtain and submit such a certificate before the Transport Department would license the car again.

The amendment also provides for more specific and uniform standards for the certificate of mechanical fitness.

### OTHER CHANGES

Another major amendment provides Ontario magis-

trates with the discretionary power to suspend a driver's licence for up to 30 days following conviction on a charge of driving at more than 30 miles an hour above the speed-limit.

Among other amendments passed by the legislature were:

A requirement for operators and passengers of motorcycles to wear helmets.

Provision for certain municipalities to be exempt from the school-bus stopping law on certain roads with speed limits above 35 miles per hour.

Provision for municipalities to prohibit pedestrians on any highway under their jurisdiction on which the maximum speed is 50 miles an hour or more.

Requirement that the slow-moving vehicle emblem (a triangular red and orange sign) be used on all farm tractors and self-propelled farm implements operated on highways.

Clarification of the law requiring doctors to report persons who appear to be unfit to operate a motor vehicle. The new section makes such reports privileged for use in connection only with driver licensing, and the reporting doctor is relieved of the possibility of civil liability.

## LOAN TO PAKISTAN

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada, His Excellency M.S.A. Baig, have signed a \$2-million international development loan agreement enabling Pakistan to purchase Canadian telephone cable to be used in the modernization and expansion of Pakistan's telecommunications system.

Tenders will be called shortly for the project. The Pakistan Telephone and Telegraphic Department, using Canadian procedures, will contact Canadian cable manufacturers who are in a position to supply the required equipment.

The loan carries no interest and is repayable over a period of 50 years. No payments are required during the first ten years of the agreement.

## SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS STUDY

Contracts for studies on the design, development and supply of a Canadian domestic satellite communications system were announced recently by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry.

The studies follow the Federal Government's announcement on April 1 of plans to create a domestic satellite communications system. A White Paper indicated that the Government also planned the creation of a domestic satellite communications corporation and stated that Canada already possessed to a large extent "the essential technology to determine the design and construction of its own system". (See *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, No. 18, P. 1, dated May 1, 1968.)

The purposes of the study contracts awarded by the Federal Department of Industry are to:

Define a satellite design suitable for a Canadian domestic satellite communications system.

Examine trade-offs between satellite parameters and ground-station parameters and select the optimum system for Canadian requirements.

Provide an implementation plan for the development and fabrication of the space segment of the system and for optimum participation by Canadian industry.

Prepare cost and schedule estimates for the design, development, fabrication, testing and launching of the space segment of the system.

## POWER-LINE IN TUNISIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp announced recently that a Montreal firm had been chosen to make a reconnaissance study for a 42-mile electrical transmission line in Tunisia, and then to design and build it. Canada will provide an interest-free development loan of about \$1 million to finance the foreign-exchange costs of the project under the Canadian international development programme.

The line will stretch from Tunis to Korba, and will help to alleviate a growing demand for power in the Cap Bon area, created by improvement and expansion of agriculture and by a rapidly-expanding tourist industry.

The project was accepted for financing in February by the Canadian economic development mission to