

NATIONAL GRAINS COUNCIL

The Prime Minister announced recently that preparations were under way for the setting up of the National Grains Council proposed in his statement on grain policy in Winnipeg on June 2.

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. H.A. Olson, the Minister of Agriculture, subsequently wrote to the heads of organizations and firms representative of all branches of the industry, inviting them to a meeting in Winnipeg on October 16, at which preliminary discussion would take place with representatives of the various sectors of the grain industry regarding the scope of the Council's membership, its organization, administration and terms of reference.

On the basis of views put forward by industry representatives in October, the Government will proceed toward formal establishment of the Grains Council, which will bring to bear the many talents of the grain industry on the examination of the domestic and foreign aspects of Canada's grain policies and on the task of meeting its export objectives.

The text of the Prime Minister's proposal follows:

CANADA'S EXPORT OBJECTIVE

The Canadian Government is confident of Canada's capacity to grow and sell the wheat that the world demands. Both the Government and the Canadian Wheat Board are determined to maintain and improve Canada's share of the world wheat market. The objective is to secure 25 per cent or better of world wheat trade or, in quantitative terms, 1.3 billion bushels of wheat exports, in the next three years. To attain this level of wheat exports, the Government is prepared to give all necessary support to the selling operations of the Canadian Wheat Board. In furtherance of these objectives, the Government will:

- (a) Continue to subscribe to and fully support the International Grains Arrangement.
- (b) Review and amend credit facilities available to improve the competitive position of Canadian wheat on world markets.
- (c) Continue a high level of wheat and flour in Canada's Food Aid Programme. The Government has announced a goal for total aid of one per cent of the gross national product. Wheat and flour will continue to represent an important share of this increasing expenditure.
- (d) Establish a National Grains Council.

Achievement of all our objectives will require a determined team effort. The grain industry represents the combined activities of tens of thousands of Canadians engaged in a wide variety of occupations. The energies, experience, and ideas of representatives of all related groups must be harnessed to the task. These must include not only producers and governments, but also elevator companies, shippers, exporters, railroads, co-operatives, marketing and inspection boards, farm organizations, agricultural scientists and sales and marketing experts.

There must be a forum established where

representatives of these groups can meet and play their part in planning and action. In consultation with the industry, this Government intends to proceed at once to establish a National Grains Council in order to involve, in a real and productive way, the various elements of this great industry.

The main purposes of the Council would be:

- (1) To review, appraise and make recommendations on any existing or proposed programme or development associated with any facet of the grain industry.
- (2) To assist and participate in the promotion of exports of Canadian grains.
- (3) To assist in the promotion of research in all aspects of the grain industry and to encourage maximum utilization of research done in Canada and other countries.
- (4) Generally to provide improved liaison between industry and government and between various elements of the industry. It is further proposed that a Secretariat be established to assist the Council, and the cost involved in the Council's operation be shared equitably between the government and various interests involved.

These forward-looking measures are designed to provide maximum assistance to the Western grain producer in his quest for volume exports at the highest possible price.

NEUTRON GENERATOR DROPPED

The Government has instructed Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to discontinue its studies in relation to the construction and operation of an intense neutron generator.

The intense neutron generator (ING) proposal was first submitted for consideration by the Federal Government in August 1966. It was subsequently referred to the newly-formed Science Council of Canada for review. The Science Council recommended approval in principle, but made it clear that this was subject to the availability of federal funds and confirmation, through further studies, of the feasibility of the project.

It was estimated that construction of the ING facility would take from seven to eight years, at a capital cost of some \$155 million (1966 rate). Annual operating cost thereafter would have been between \$15 and \$20 million.

The intense neutron generator was conceived as a machine that would produce an extremely high intensity of neutrons. Although it was intended primarily for fundamental research, it was hoped that a number of other uses could be developed, including the production of radioactive isotopes for medical, industrial and other applications, and the advancement of nuclear research and development.

In view of the very high cost of ING, its relation on the scale of priorities to the many other demands on the national treasury, and the necessity of curbing government expenditures, it has been decided that the funds required for the intense neutron generator cannot be provided at this time.