

News briefs

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has agreed with a federal advisory committee recommendation continuing a ban on the use of urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI). In September 1980 the committee, composed of non-government experts, was asked to assess the health hazards associated with its use. In an interim report, submitted to the government in December, the committee recommended a temporary ban on the use of UFFI in buildings. The committee's final report notes that UFFI is an unstable material of variable composition, which can break down and release formaldehyde gas.

The Royal Bank has agreed to buy out its partners in Orion Bank Limited of London, England, for about \$100 million. Orion will be merged with the Royal's own merchant banking arm, the Royal Bank of Canada (London) Limited to form an operation with assets of about \$3 billion (U.S.). Jock Finlayson, president of the Royal Bank will be chairman of the merged company's separate board of directors, but he will remain based in Toronto.

Canada Post has started airmail service between Frobisher Bay and Nuuk, Greenland. All mail for Greenland until now has been routed through Denmark. The new service will carry only a few pounds a day of letters, small packages, newspapers and periodicals. Larger parcels will travel the route by way of Denmark.

Toronto Dominion Bank recently opened an international centre in Winnipeg with regional responsibilities for customers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and northwestern Ontario. The centre will market a broad range of international banking services including foreign exchange, foreign currency loans and



CP Laserphoto

Visitors to the Toronto Zoo recently had the opportunity to see the first African elephant born in Canada. The elephant was making his first public appearance since being born last October.

deposits, documentary credits and trade financing.

Federal and provincial government officials with responsibility for home care and home support services programs met recently in Ottawa. Highlights of the meeting included the exploration of key issues such as the relationship of home care to health and social services, eligibility, program standards, reporting systems and monitoring and evaluation.

Alberta Industrial Holdings Limited, designed to attract smaller investors to the provincial industrial sector, has been formed by the Merbanco Group, a Calgary-based financial consortium. Alberta Holdings Chairman Robert Wisener said that about a half of the public issue has been privately-placed with several major institutions including Canada Trust, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Royal Bank, Nova Corporation and TransCanada PipeLines Limited. The remaining shares will be offered to the public in the four western provinces.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed financing agreements supporting additional sales of \$7 million for the construction of the Kwidzyn forestry project in Poland. Financing arrangements for the project signed between EDC and the borrower, Bank Handlowy w Warszawie S.A. since 1975 amount to \$210 million, including the additional \$7 million.

Job vacancies for engineers, accountants, scientists and other professionals remain at record high levels in spite of the continuing slack economy, according to the Technical Service Council. The quarterly survey showed little change in the number of openings during the last three months but vacancies for professionals have increased 15.8 per cent over the past year.

Construction of an oil pipeline along the Mackenzie River, from Zama, Alberta to Norman Wells, Northwest Territories, has been approved by the National Energy Board. If approval is received from the federal Cabinet soon, Interprovincial Pipe Line Limited could complete the \$360-million line by late 1983, with the first deliveries of oil starting in early 1984.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has announced that the Canadian Bankers' Association has agreed to recommend to its members a more flexible policy in administering farm loans during the current period of high interest rates. Mr. Whelan, Farm Credit Corporation Chairman Rolland Poirier and Agriculture Canada Deputy Minister Gaetan Lussier met recently with a delegation from the Bankers' Association, to discuss the serious short-term financial problems now faced by some segments of the Canadian farming and food processing industries.

Immigration figures for 1979 reveal that Vietnam was the source country for the largest group - 19,859 immigrants, representing 17.7 per cent of the total. Large numbers of immigrants also came from: Britain, 12,853 or 11.5 per cent; United States, 9,617 or 8.6 per cent; Hong Kong, 5,966 or 5.3 per cent; India, 4,517 or 4 per cent; Laos, 3,903 or 3.5 per cent; Philippines, 3,873 or 3.5 per cent. Total immigration in 1979 was 112,096, an increase of 29.9 per cent over 1978, but 25 per cent below the average for the previous ten years.

Domtar Incorporated of Montreal plans to invest \$29.2 million at its Dolbeau newsprint mill in the Lac St. Jean region, 150 miles north of Quebec City. The program includes a wood waste boiler, and improvements in wood processing and handling. The boiler will supply all the mill's steam requirements and will burn wastes from the company's own sawmills and others in the Dolbeau area. The wood waste fuel used will be equivalent to about 8.5 million gallons of fuel oil a year.

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